

Broadband in Belgium

Belgium's broadband strategy is incorporated into a broader policy strategy "Digital Belgium 2015-2020". The aim is to provide speeds of up to 1 Gbps to half of the country by 2020 and to facilitate a proactive 5G roll-out. By lowering costs and reducing administrative burdens, Belgium favours a market driven broadband deployment.



Summary of broadband development in Belgium

Digital Belgium 2015-2020 outlines the digital vision for Belgium based on five priorities, with Digital infrastructure being one of them.

National and regional broadband strategy and policy

Responsible authorities

- The Minister of the Digital Agenda, Telecom and Postal Services, in charge of Administrative Simplification, Prevention of Social Security Fraud, the Protection of Privacy and the North Sea, is responsible for issues concerning the Digital Agenda and Telecom.
- The FPS Economy, SMEs, Self-employed and Energy is the federal public service in charge of the economic policy in Belgium. Through its Directorate-General for Economic Regulation (Division Telecommunication and Information Society), the FPS supports the Belgian telecommunication sector in developing and implementing regulations and in stimulating innovation.
- The Belgian Institute for Postal services and Telecommunications (BIPT) is the regulator for electronic communications. It has among others the task to promote competition, to contribute

to the development of the internal market and to protect the users' interests. BIPT is involved in many aspects of the national broadband strategy. It especially gathers, analyses and presents information on the supply of broadband services, in order to stimulate the roll out of broadband networks and to identify the remaining white areas.

- Wallonia: the Agence du Numérique (AdN) is a limited liability company under public law, in charge of ICT development in Wallonia. The Agence du Numérique is in charge of putting into operation the strategy for Digital Wallonia 2019-2024, set up by the Walloon government to fill the gap in digital development -including broadband networks- and help the region in its digital transformation.

Main aims for broadband development

Digital Belgium 2015–2020 states that by 2020 at least half of the connections in Belgium must achieve Internet speeds of 1 Gbps. Mobile broadband technologies must be rolled out as soon as possible across the entire Belgian territory. Moreover, a proactive 5G framework needs to be created to ensure Belgium is in the lead for stimulating the Internet of Things.

Digital Belgium 2015–2020 sets five priorities:

- Digital infrastructure,
- Digital confidence and digital security,
- Digital government,
- Digital economy, and
- Digital skills and jobs.

New coverage maps for fixed broadband and mobile broadband were made available to identify the areas where a high-performance infrastructure is not yet present (white zones) and together with the local governments additional measures are being developed to stimulate roll-out of connectivity in those areas. By using a mix of technologies, Belgium is to ensure that everyone can access the internet.

By reducing administrative burdens and lowering roll-out costs of network operators, the government is stimulating the roll-out of new broadband technologies (fibre, LTE advanced, 5G). For example, every house that is being built or renovated in the future will need to be fibre ready. Moreover, a proactive 5G framework is to ensure Belgium is ready when the Internet-of-everything is rolled out.

There seem to be no state aid programmes for roll-out available. Neither does the plan state needed or planned investments. Yet, the Belgian government commits to reducing administrative burdens and costs of deployment of ICT infrastructures.

Digital Wallonia 2019-2024 sets the framework for the Walloon Government's actions in terms of Wallonia's digital transformation. Digital Wallonia is structured around eight cross-disciplinary challenges that form its structured framework and its key elements for all the decisions made and the measures taken within the five themes of Digital Wallonia. One of the challenges is Giga Region - Super-fast broadband for everyone as the bedrock of digital initiatives.

Measures for broadband development

Broadband mapping: The Belgian Institute for Postal services and Telecommunications (BIPT) provides a mapping system for broadband (per technology) showing where Internet access is available at a particular speed. In this way, areas where high-performance infrastructure is not yet present (white areas) and additional measures are necessary can be identified.

There are mapping tools with infrastructure information provided on the regional level. An example is the KLIP – Kabel en Leiding Informatie Portal database in Flanders, which provides relevant information for planning, permit applicants, cable and pipeline operators as well as public administration.

A similar portal exists at federal scale: KLIM-CICC - Contact federal Informations Câbles et Conduites. Here, when planning works, one can either check whether there are any installations and pipelines for the transport of hazardous products or high-voltage cables as well as other cables or lines nearby, or announce the works to the cable operators and cable operators who will provide all necessary information.

The Walloon Region also has its own web-enabled portal to assist in the coordination of works planning, called Powalco. Digital Wallonia launched a new regional alert platform for broadband connectivity problems: Digital Wallonia Connect. This platform was developed with the cooperation of the three mobile Telecom operators in the frame of the “ToP” agreement.

Data on broadband development and technologies in Belgium

For the latest data on broadband coverage, subscriptions and penetrations, coverage of different broadband technologies and costs check the scoreboard reports and the country reports of the Digital Economy & Society Index (DESI).

Spectrum assignments for wireless broadband

For details on harmonised spectrum assignments consult the European 5G Observatory.

National publications and press documents

English

- Digital Belgium 2015-2020
- Digital Wallonia Strategy 2019-2024
- Study on National Broadband Plans in the EU-28
- Guide to High-Speed Broadband Investment
- Broadband Connectivity Reports and Analyses
- Mobile and fixed broadband prices in Europe at the end of 2019
- Study on broadband coverage in Europe 2019

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Latest

WiFi4EU stories: an interview with the Mayor of Bissen, Luxembourg

The commune of Bissen, located in the canton of Mersch in central Luxembourg, has brought connectivity closer to its citizens by adhering to the WiFi4EU initiative. Following the steps of its capital city, Bissen wants people to benefit from the many opportunities brought about by digitalization, including having equal access to public information.

EVENT | 13 July 2021

WiFi4EU online workshop for WiFi Installation Companies

This one-hour online workshop is dedicated to WiFi Installation Companies involved in the WiFi4EU initiative. Its objective is to answer their questions in order to help overcome hurdles and accelerate network deployment. This workshop is an important opportunity in view of the approaching deadline, which risks the loss of municipalities' € 15,000 WiFi4EU vouchers.

NEWS ARTICLE | 08 July 2021

Digital Alps: Partnering with Broadband Competence Offices to build a digital connectivity roadmap for the Alpine Region

Mountain regions have much to gain from digitalisation and broadband connectivity. There is great potential for Smart Villages, SMEs, and access to online services in healthcare, education and much more. Mountain communities, however, face greater obstacles than most in becoming full participants in the European Union's Digital Decade. Their remoteness, in terms of distance and topography, combined with smaller populations, make them technically and financially challenging to reach with broadband infrastructure.

NEWS ARTICLE | 18 June 2021

Spain's nation-wide State aid scheme to connect 430,000 people in grey areas

"Spain is the first European country to develop a broadband scheme for grey areas with a geographical scope covering all the nation" states Elena Galindo from Spain's Ministry of Energy, Tourism and Digital Agenda, in this video. Ms Galindo, representing Spain's national Broadband Competence Office, explains that the scheme is needed as approximately "8-10% of the population living in isolated rural and remote areas could not be covered with fast broadband". It aims to cover 3.5 million people, of which 430,000 in grey areas, with minimum speeds of 300 Mbps symmetrical, upgradeable to 1 Gbps.

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Related Content

Big Picture

Broadband in EU countries

Find current information on broadband development in each country, as well as national strategies and policies for developing broadband.

See Also

Broadband in Sweden

Sweden's national broadband plan, adopted in 2016, has the vision of an entirely connected Sweden and has goals for both mobile coverage and for high-speed broadband connections for households and businesses. By 2020, 95% of all households and companies should have access to...

Broadband - Sverige

Sveriges nationella bredbandsplan, antagen 2016, har visionen om ett fullt kopplat Sverige och har mål för både mobil täckning och för höghastighets bredbandsförbindelser för hushåll och företag. Fram till 2020 skulle 95% av alla hushåll och företag ha tillgång till bredband med...

Broadband in Spain

Digital connectivity and 5G rollout are among the ten strategic priorities of the Spain Digital 2025 Agenda.

Broadband - España

El objetivo de conseguir un 100 % de cobertura de Internet a 30 Mbps, con un 50 % de los hogares suscritos a conexiones de Internet por encima de 100 Mbps en 2020, está en línea con los objetivos establecidos en la Agenda Digital para Europa. Con el fin de aprovechar todas las...

Broadband in Slovenia

Slovenia's broadband aims are in line with the gigabit society targets.

Broadband - Slovenija

Slovenski širokopasovni cilji so v skladu s cilji gigabitne družbe.

Broadband in Slovakia

Slovakia has set the long-term objective of achieving access to high-speed internet connection with at least 30 Mbps for all households by the end of 2020.

Broadband - Slovenská republika

Slovenská republika si stanovila ako dlhodobý cieľ umožniť všetkým domácnostiam prístup k vysokorýchlostnému internetovému pripojeniu s rýchlosťou najmenej 30 Mbit/s do konca roku 2020.

Broadband in Romania

Romania's broadband plan focuses on building up a national broadband network as a first step towards achieving the targets set by the Digital Agenda for Europe.

Broadband - România

Planul României privind rețeaua de bandă largă se axează pe înființarea unei rețele naționale de bandă largă ca prim pas în atingerea țintelor stabilite de către Agenda Digitală pentru Europa.

Broadband in Portugal

Portugal's NGA coverage is slightly below EU average. The Agenda Portugal Digital aims at development of a digital infrastructure that allows citizens to take advantage of the new opportunities offered by technologies.

Broadband - Portugal

A cobertura NGA de Portugal está ligeiramente abaixo da média da UE. A Agenda Portugal Digital visa o desenvolvimento de uma infraestrutura digital que permita aos cidadãos tirar partido das novas oportunidades que as tecnologias oferecem.

Broadband in Poland

Poland's national broadband plan foresees that 100% of households should have access to internet connectivity of at least 30 Mbps by 2020. 50% of households should have internet connectivity of 100 Mbps by 2020.

Broadband - Polska

Polski Narodowy Plan Szerokopasmowy przewiduje, że do 2020 r. 100% gospodarstw domowych powinno mieć dostęp do internetu o przepustowości co najmniej 30 Mbps. Również do 2020 r. 50% gospodarstw domowych powinno korzystać z internetu o przepustowości 100 Mbps.

Broadband in the Netherlands

The Dutch government supports the Gigabit Society targets. All households should have the opportunity to access broadband networks of at least 100 Mbps and a vast majority should be taking advantage of 1 Gbps by 2023. Mobile networks must also be able to access basic services at...

Broadband - Nederland

De Nederlandse overheid ondersteunt de doelstellingen van de Gigabit Society. Dat houdt in dat alle

huishoudens in 2020 de mogelijkheid moeten hebben om een breedbandverbinding met een snelheid van tenminste 100 Mbps te gebruiken en een overgrote meerderheid zou tegen 2023...

Broadband in Malta

Malta's broadband policy is technology neutral and favours a competitive market environment.

Broadband - Malta

Il-politika ta' Malta dwar il-broadband hija waħda newtrali f'termini ta' teknoloġija u favur ambjent kummerċjali kompetittiv.

Broadband in Luxembourg

The development of a communication infrastructure with a target of gigabit broadband access throughout the country is one of the priorities in the governmental programme of Luxembourg.

Broadband - Luxembourg

Le développement d'une infrastructure des communications avec pour objectif de fournir un accès haut débit en gigaoctet dans tout le pays est l'une des priorités du programme du gouvernement du Luxembourg.

Broadband - Luxemburg

Die Entwicklung einer Kommunikationsinfrastruktur mit dem Ziel flächendeckende Gigabitzugänge zur Verfügung zu stellen, bildet einen der Schwerpunkte im Regierungsprogramm von Luxemburg.

Broadband in Lithuania

Lithuania's Next Generation Internet Access Development Plan focuses on direct state contribution to long-term infrastructure development, supports measures promoting private sector investments and seeks to foster an increase in demand for fast broadband access.

Broadband - Lietuva

Lietuvos naujos kartos interneto prieigos plėtros plane dėmesys sutelkiamas į tiesioginį valstybės indėlį į ilgalaikės infrastruktūros plėtrą, remiamos priemonės, kuriomis skatinamos privačiojo sektoriaus investicijos ir didinama spartaus plėtojimosios ryšio paklausa.

Broadband in Latvia

Broadband facilitates the development of e-services for government, schools, commerce, health and business besides providing high-speed internet to residents, businesses and public administrations in Latvia.

Broadband - Latvija

Platjoslas sakari atvieglo e-pakalpojumu attīstību valdības, skolu, tirdzniecības, veselības aprūpes un uzņēmējdarbības vajadzībām, nodrošinot ātrdarbīgu internetu Latvijas iedzīvotājiem, uzņēmumiem un valsts pārvaldes iestādēm.

Broadband in Italy

The Italian strategy for next generation access network aims at developing a high-speed access network to maximise the take-up of an infrastructure able to guarantee services of 100 Mbps for at least 85% of households by 2020. Italy adopted a national state aid scheme to support...

Broadband in Ireland

The national broadband plan for Ireland foresees that by 2026 all premises in Ireland will have access to high-speed broadband.

Broadband – Magyarország

A magyar Nemzeti Infokommunikációs Stratégia 2014–2020 célkitűzése, hogy 2018-ra a teljes lakosság számára legalább 30 Mbps, 2020-ra pedig a háztartások felének 100 Mbps sebességű, új generációs hozzáférési hálózati (NGA) lefedettséget biztosítson.

Broadband in Hungary

Hungary's National Digitization Strategy 2021-2030 aims at 95% of households covered by gigabit networks by 2030.

Broadband - Ελλάδα

Το Εθνικό σχέδιο ευρυζωνικής πρόσβασης επόμενης γενιάς 2014-2020 έχει ως απώτερο στόχο τη δημιουργία ευνοϊκού περιβάλλοντος για ιδιωτικές επενδύσεις σε δίκτυα επόμενης γενιάς, καθώς και την κρατική στήριξη σε τομείς για τους οποίους υπάρχει μικρό ή δεν υπάρχει καθόλου ενδιαφέρον...

Broadband in Greece

The Greek Digital Transformation Bible 2020-2025 highlights connectivity as one of the five strategic

axes and acknowledges the Gigabit Society 2025 targets.

Broadband - Deutschland

Der Koalitionsvertrag 2018 der Bundesregierung sieht das vorrangige Ziel eines flächendeckenden Ausbaus von Gigabit-Netzen bis 2025 vor. Die Bundesregierung hat eine 5G-Strategie für Deutschland entwickelt.

Broadband in Germany

The 2018 coalition agreement of the German Federal Government identifies the priority goal of a nationwide expansion of gigabit networks by 2025. The federal government has also developed a 5G Strategy for Germany.

Broadband in France

The national broadband programme France Très Haut Débit sets out the targets of fast broadband access for all households by 2022 and fibre for all by 2025.

Broadband - France

Le plan national français Très Haut Débit relatif à la technologie large bande vise à rendre le très haut débit accessible dans tous les foyers d'ici 2022. Le plan prévoit la fibre pour tous d'ici 2025.

Broadband - Suomi

Suomen viranomaiset toteuttavat julkisin varoin tuetun kilpailuvetoisen, kuitupohjaisen verkon käyttöönoton alueilla, joilla palveluiden levinneisyys on alhainen, sekä tarjoavat kunnille laajakaistaverkot käyttöönottoa koskevaa neuvontaa.

Broadband in Finland

The Finnish authorities go for a competition-driven, fibre-based network roll-out assisted by public funds for underserved areas and advice for local municipalities on how to deploy broadband networks.

Broadband in Estonia

Estonia has established basic broadband coverage throughout the country, and has brought its broadband targets for 2020 in line with those of the Digital Agenda for Europe.

Broadband - Eesti

Eesti on teinud lairibaühenduse baasteenuse kättesaadavaks kogu riigis ning 2020. aasta lairibaühenduse eesmärgid on kooskõlas digitaalarengu tegevuskava eesmärkidega.

Broadband - Danmark

En række politiske initiativer, der sigter mod landsdækkende fast og mobil bredbåndsdækning, understøtter de danske bredbåndsmål. Desuden arbejder regeringen for at gøre Danmark til en digital frontrunner ved at skabe grundlag for danske virksomheder til at udnytte digitale...

Broadband in Denmark

A number of political initiatives aiming at nation-wide fixed and mobile broadband coverage support Danish broadband goals. The Government works towards making Denmark a digital frontrunner by creating a foundation for Danish businesses to exploit digital technologies.

Broadband - Česká republika

Národní strategie České republiky má za cíl dosažení širokopásmového přístupu k internetu s rychlostí alespoň 30 Mb/s pro všechny obyvatel a alespoň 100 Mb/s pro 50 % domácností do roku 2020. Cílem je očekávat jak prostřednictvím investic soukromého sektoru, tak i veřejné podpory...

Broadband in the Czech Republic

The National Plan for the Development of Very High Capacity Networks, approved in March 2021, defines the strategic approach of the Czech Republic to the construction of VHCN.

Broadband in Cyprus

Cyprus' broadband plan sets strategic objectives for 2016-2020 and is aligned with the Gigabit Society objectives and the 5G Action Plan. It aims at Internet coverage with at least 30 Mbps for all households and businesses by 2020. In order to achieve the 2020 take-up target of...

Broadband - Κύπρος

Το ευρυζωνικό σχέδιο της Κύπρου έθεσε στρατηγικούς στόχους για την περίοδο 2016-2020 και ευθυγραμμίζεται με τους στόχους της κοινωνίας Gigabit. Η Κύπρος έχει υιοθετήσει αρκετά μέτρα από πλευράς ζήτησης με στόχο την τόνωση της ψηφιακής οικονομίας της.

Broadband in Croatia

Croatia's strategy contains basic principles such as service and technological neutrality, net neutrality

and inclusion of broadband internet access among universal services.

Broadband – Hrvatska

Strategija Republike Hrvatske sadrži temeljna načela kao što su načelo neutralnosti u pogledu tehnologija i usluga, mrežna neutralnost i uključivanje širokopojasnog internetskog pristupa u univerzalne usluge.

Broadband – Република България

Националният план за широколентова инфраструктура за достъп от следващо поколение 2014 на България определя цели за широколентовия достъп в съответствие с Програмата в областта на цифровите технологии за Европа.

Broadband in Bulgaria

The National Broadband Infrastructure Plan for Next Generation Access "Connected Bulgaria" and the Policy in the field of electronic communications have been updated and adopted in August 2020.

Broadband – Österreich

Österreichs Breitbandstrategie konzentriert sich auf die Bereitstellung von ultraschneller Breitband-Übertragungsraten bis 2030. Bis Ende 2025 soll eine fast flächendeckende Verfügbarkeit von 5G erreicht werden.

Broadband in Austria

Austria's broadband strategy focuses on the nationwide supply of Gigabit connections by 2030. By the end of 2025, almost nationwide availability of 5G should have been realised.

Source URL: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/policies/broadband-belgium>