

## 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.



## Summary of broadband development in Bulgaria

The National Broadband Infrastructure Plan for Next Generation Access "Connected Bulgaria" and the Policy in the field of electronic communications were adopted in August 2020. The National Development Program Bulgaria 2030 introduced a priority 8 Digital connectivity aiming at building a modern and secure digital infrastructure as a basis for offering more digital services. Also, the Digital Transformation of Bulgaria for the period 2020-2030 approved in July 2020 aims at deploying networks with a very high capacity. State budget and the EU funds will be used to help reach the set aims.

## National broadband strategy and policy

### Responsible authorities

- Bulgaria's Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications (Министерство на транспорта, информационните технологии и съобщенията, МТИТК) coordinates the activities for the implementation of the policy in the field of information and communications technology. The ministry aims to develop a legal framework to ensure an effective environment for the communication business and the construction and maintenance of modern electronic communications infrastructure.

- The State e-Government Agency SEGA (Държавна агенция „Електронно управление“ ДАЕУ) introduces control-related policies, rules, regulations and good practices in the field of electronic governance, strategic planning and initiatives, budget planning and control, coordinates sector-related policies and interdepartmental projects.
- The Communications Regulation Commission (Комисията за регулиране на съобщенията) oversees broadband deployment on a national level and executes the laws and performs regulations as well as supervision in the field of technical standards or use of frequencies.

## **Main aims for broadband development**

The National Broadband Infrastructure Plan for Next Generation Access "Connected Bulgaria" outlines the steps to provide digital infrastructure for the provision of various services. The measures envisage improving access to high-speed Internet in less populated regions and developing the high-speed mobile Internet in the country. Of key importance for the digitisation of the Bulgarian economy and public services will be investments for the introduction of 5G networks. The plan sets out the need for targeted investments in technological development, completion of the necessary infrastructure and guaranteed network and information security. The main priority fields in the plan are:

- Broadband infrastructure - accelerated building of broadband infrastructure, incl. for the needs of the state administration
- Very high-speed infrastructure - creating conditions for very high-speed networks' deployment
- Spectrum efficient use - establishing conditions for building NGA networks
- Improving coverage in settlements located in peripheral, sparsely populated and rural areas
- Bridging the Digital divide
- Network security

The plan sets the following target indicators:

- Coverage of 52 % of households by the Fixed Very High Capacity Network (VHCN),
- Take-up of 33% of households of at least 100 Mbps fixed broadband,
- 5G readiness at 50%.

The updated Policy in the field of electronic communications aims to ensure the provision of modern and quality electronic communications services by creating conditions for the development of a competitive market as part of the EU internal market. Priority is the deployment and use of very high-capacity networks, the provision of fifth generation services, effective and sustainable competition, the security of networks and services, as well as advantages for end-users, including equivalent access to the services of people with disabilities.

The Priority 8 Digital connectivity of the National Development Program Bulgaria 2030 aims to build a modern and secure digital infrastructure as a basis for offering more services through digital management. The goal is to build very high capacity networks, which will form a platform for providing a variety of digital value-added services while ensuring that no part of the country or a society group will be left without adequate digital connectivity. The focus is on deploying high-speed networks, especially broadband in rural areas, effective assignment of the spectrum for wireless broadband and 5G, accelerated development and take-up of broadband-dependent services such as cloud, IoT, etc. as well as the development of digital skills and services.

The Digital Transformation of Bulgaria for the period 2020-2030 approved in July 2020 aims at deploying networks with a very high capacity to ensure that no part of the country or a group in society is left without adequate digital connectivity, and provide better access of the enterprises to diverse, high-quality and innovative digital services. Digital connectivity shall contribute to providing

access to all major drivers of socio-economic development, such as schools, hospitals, transport centres, major public service providers, etc.

## **National and regional broadband financial instruments**

According to the Priority 8 of the National Development Program Bulgaria 2030, use of the state budget and EU funds is foreseen.

## **Data on broadband development and technologies in Bulgaria**

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.

## **Publications and press documents**

### **English**

- National Broadband Infrastructure Plan for Next Generation Access "Connected Bulgaria"
- National Development Program Bulgaria 2030
- Digital Transformation of Bulgaria for the period 2020-2030
- Study on National Broadband Plans in the EU-28
- Guide to High-Speed Broadband Investment
- Bulgaria - country reports on performances in digitisation: connectivity, digital skills, digital public services and more
- Mobile and fixed broadband prices in Europe at the end of 2019
- Study on broadband coverage in Europe 2019

### **Bulgarian**

- National Broadband Infrastructure Plan for Next Generation Access "Connected Bulgaria"
- National Development Program Bulgaria 2030
- Broadband connectivity section, Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications

## **Contact information**

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## **Communications Regulation Commission (Комисия за регулиране на съобщенията)**

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Website

Follow the latest progress and learn more about getting involved.

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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.

Browse Broadband Europe

## **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 - Luxemburg

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

#### 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 - 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 plėtojimo ryšio paklausa.

#### 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 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 in Hungary

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

#### 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 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 - 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 - 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 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 - 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 – Eesti

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

#### 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 - 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 - 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 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 - Hrvatska

Strategija Republike Hrvatske sadržava temeljna načela kao što su načelo neutralnosti u pogledu

tehnologija i usluga, mrežna neutralnost i uključivanje širokopojsnog internetskog pristupa u univerzalne usluge.

#### 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 - Belgien

Belgiens Breitbandstrategie ist Teil der umfassenden politischen Strategie „Digital Belgium – Plan for Ultrafast Internet in Belgium 2015-2020“. Die Rahmenbedingungen des Belgischen Breitbandmarktes begünstigen einen marktgetriebenen NGN Ausbau. Ziel ist es, bis 2020...

#### 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...

#### Broadband - Belgique

La stratégie haut débit fait partie d'une stratégie politique plus large intitulée « Digital Belgium – Plan Internet très haut débit en Belgique 2015-2020 ». Le but est de fournir, à l'horizon 2020, un débit allant jusqu'à 1 Gbps à au moins la moitié des connexions établies en...

#### Broadband - Belgïe

De Belgische strategie op het gebied van breedband is bestanddeel van de bredere beleidsstrategie: "Digital Belgium - Plan for Ultrafast Internet in Belgium 2015-2020". Het doel is het leveren van snelheden tot maximaal 1 Gbps voor de helft van het land in 2020, het zorgen voor...

#### 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.

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