

## 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.

### Summary of broadband development in Croatia

There are specific objectives arising from the Croatian Broadband strategy. These include ensuring effective competition, availability of broadband access and encouraging demand for broadband services by citizens and business entities. In underserved areas, the Croatian strategy suggests ensuring broadband access by applying mobile communications technologies, such as UMTS, LTE and WiMAX.

### National broadband strategy and policy

#### Responsible authorities

- The Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure (Ministarstvo mora, prometa i infrastrukture) is the central state administrative body with expertise and responsibility for administrative tasks in the area of electronic communications including broadband policy and strategy. Through the Directorate for air traffic, electronic communications and postal services, it is in charge of preparing proposals for strategies, studies, guidelines, programmes and implementation plans. It establishes the general principles and objectives of the policy for the development of electronic communications networks and services, including broadband infrastructure.
- The Croatian Regulatory Authority for Network Industries HAKOM (Hrvatska regulatorna agencija za mrežne djelatnosti) ensures market competition, stable growth and environment for innovations in the electronic communications and postal services market.

#### Main aims for broadband development

The Croatian National Broadband (NGN) Plan consists of four parts:

- Strategy for Broadband Development in the Republic of Croatia for 2016–2020
- Project of unification and better management of surplus of fibre optic infrastructure of public companies majority-owned by the Republic of Croatia (OSI)
- National Framework Programme for the Development of Broadband Infrastructure in Areas Lacking from the Sufficient Commercial Interest for Investment (ONP)
- National programme for backhaul broadband infrastructure (NP-BBI)

The Strategy for Broadband Development in the Republic of Croatia for 2016–2020, adopted in July 2016, aims at achieving full broadband deployment by a technology neutral approach ensuring conditions for an open and equal legislative framework. The strategy also focuses on the encouragement of broadband supply and demand for electronic services as well as on ensuring effective competition in the telecommunications sector. Croatia's overall broadband objectives are convergent with the DAE (100% coverage with 30 Mbps and 50% take-up rate for 100 Mbps until 2020). The estimated budget for the implementation of the Strategy measures is circa EUR 770 million.

The National Plan for the Development of Broadband Access 2021-2027 is under preparation.

## **Main measures for broadband development**

- Broadband mapping: HAKOM has developed and updates a central mapping tool, Interactive GIS portal, which provides information about the availability of broadband access, a consolidated plan of mobile communications operators as well as publications of intents for deployment and bandwidth speeds.
- Project of unification and better management of surplus of fibre optic infrastructure of public companies majority-owned by the Republic of Croatia (OSI) was launched in January 2013. The main objective is the integration and better management of surplus fibre optic infrastructure of public companies, that represents a core part of the Croatian broadband network with a length of 8.000 kilometres.

## **National broadband financial instruments**

The National Framework Programme for the Development of Broadband Backhaul Infrastructure in Areas Lacking Sufficient Commercial Interest for Investments (ONP) is a national (umbrella) broadband state aid scheme. Besides general state aid rules, ONP also brings guidelines for local municipalities for implementation of individual projects within ONP. The total estimated (maximum) funding at the national level for the framework programme amounts to EUR 257.9 million, of which EUR 123.1 million is to be financed from ERDF and the remaining EUR 134.8 million to be covered by the EIB loan. Both sources of funding (ERDF and EIB loan) represent grants for public authorities at local and regional level (cities, municipalities and counties). It is expected that the contribution of private funds in co-financing NGA broadband networks during the implementation of the Programme will amount to EUR 120 million. The average annual budget of the Programme in 2016 - 2023 amounts to EUR 31.5 million. The Croatian Regulatory Authority for Network Industries (HAKOM) has been determined as a holder of the ONP.

The national programme for broadband backhaul infrastructure (NP-BBI) covers state aid measures for backhaul portion of NGN network in white areas and aims at developing the national NGN broadband backhaul, as a network segment interconnecting NGA networks and national core networks. The Programme was endorsed by the European Commission and will be carried out through a public investment model. The passive fibre infrastructure will be designed and built and retained in permanent public ownership. After the infrastructure is built, it will be offered to operators on the market at equal terms. Based on the results of public consultations, the Programme aims to cover at least 540 settlements, which are initially prioritised and set as targeted settlements (at least 25% of population), located in suburban and rural areas of Croatia. The overall estimated (maximum) budget of the measure is EUR 101.4 million, of which EUR 86.2 million (85%) will be funded

by ERDF and the remaining EUR 15.2 million (15%) by national funds. The annual budget of the scheme amounts to EUR 14.5 million for the period 2017-2023.

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

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**

- Strategy for Broadband Development in the Republic of Croatia for 2016-2020
- Measures considered by the Commission as existing aid (pdf)
- National Framework Programme for the Development of Broadband Infrastructure in Areas Lacking Sufficient Commercial Interest for Investments (ONP)
- Operational Programme under the “Investment for growth and jobs” goal 2014-2020 (pdf)
- Study on National Broadband Plans in the EU-28
- Guide to High-Speed Broadband Investment
- Croatia - 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

### **Croatian**

- Strategija razvoja širokopojasnog pristupa u Republici Hrvatskoj u razdoblju od 2016. do 2020. godine
- Okvirni nacionalni program za razvoj infrastrukture širokopojasnog pristupa (ONP)

## **Contact information**

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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 in Spain](#)

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

[Broadband in Slovenia](#)

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

[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 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### 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...

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### Broadband in Malta

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

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.

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## 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 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 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 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.

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#### 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.

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#### 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.

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#### 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...

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#### 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.

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#### 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...

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#### 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-croatia>