

## 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.

### Summary of broadband development in Czech Republic

The National Plan for the Development of Very High Capacity Networks defines the strategic approach of the Czech Republic to the construction of VHCN. Through targeted public support, the focus will be on backhaul and access networks.

### National broadband strategy and policy

#### Responsible authorities

- The Ministry of Industry and Trade (Ministerstvo průmyslu a obchodu) is the main responsible authority for broadband strategy and policies.
- The Ministry of the Interior (Ministerstvo vnitra) has tasks dedicated to eGovernment, electronic signature and the digitisation of the state administration.
- The Ministry of Transport (Ministerstvo dopravy) is involved in the implementation of the national broadband plan.
- The Czech Telecommunication Office (Český telekomunikační úřad) performs regulation, data collection and related statistics concerning the country's broadband development.

#### Main aims for broadband development

The National Plan for the Development of Very High Capacity Networks was approved on 1 March 2021. The plan indicates the necessary preconditions facilitating investment in very high capacity networks as well defining strategic procedures for the construction of these networks and, at the same time, provides direct support from public sources while minimizing interference in the market.

The plan sets strategic goals and priorities for the development of VHCN:

1. Construct of a robust, secure and reliable infrastructure for electronic communications (VHCN) primarily for all socio-economic drivers as well as areas with no such infrastructure.
2. Create conditions for ensuring high-speed internet access via the VHCN in both rural and urban areas: a) access to download speeds of at least 100 Mbps, with possibility to upgrade to 1 Gbps for all households, b) access to minimum gigabit speeds (symmetrical) for businesses, state administration, local self-governments and socio-economic entities.
3. Create suitable conditions for construction of non-public VHCN networks
4. Create suitable conditions for high-speed Internet access for households in rural areas with extremely difficult possibilities to operate electronic communications networks, e.g. in areas where the expected operating revenues do not cover operating costs for operators.

5. Create suitable conditions for connecting municipalities to VHCN
6. Ensure optimal development of 5G networks in all urban and rural areas and along the main transport corridors.
7. Create suitable conditions for further coverage of the territory of the Czech Republic by mobile services in sparsely populated areas.
8. Create suitable conditions for the coverage of railway corridors, including tunnels, by mobile networks.
9. Provide targeted support from public funds for the roll-out of VHCN in accordance with the principle of technological neutrality in white areas where operators do not plan to invest in such infrastructure.
10. Look for possibilities to cover the operating costs, especially of socio-economic drivers.

The Czech Republic has already developed a backbone optical infrastructure network to the level of district cities, so further development and potential subsidy support will be directed primarily at the absent backhaul connections and access parts of the networks. For this reason, support from public sources will be directed to the two hierarchically lowest levels of the network, to create interconnection points that would have sufficient capacity to ensure strategic goals, and to build access networks with parameters of VHCN networks (ideally using optical infrastructure).

Digital Czech Republic 3 was adopted in 2018 and is composed of a set of concepts that ensures long-term prosperity of the Czech Republic in the environment of the ongoing digital revolution. This strategy consists of the top goals of three partial strategies: (1) Interaction of the Czech Republic in the European Union in the digital agenda field, (2) Digital public administration and (3) The preparation and interaction of the Czech Republic's society and economy for the consumption of digitalisation.

The strategic document Implementation and Development of 5G Networks in the Czech Republic was approved in January 2020. It sets out a national strategy of 5G deployment in the coming years. It is part of the Digital Czech Republic concept and the Innovation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2019-2030.

## **Measures and financing instruments**

Broadband mapping: an infrastructure mapping website has been established by the Czech Telecommunication Office (CTU). Mapping is provided at the level of so-called "basic settlement units". For these units, the evaluation is made whether the location is suitable for public subsidy. In terms of coverage mapping, three bandwidth groups are differentiated: up to 30 Mbps, 30-100 Mbps, 100 Mbps and more. The existing and planned networks (forecast for 3 years) are to be included in the database.

The National Plan for the Development of Very High Capacity Networks estimates an investment gap for backhaul and access networks at CZK 15.3 billion (EUR 0.58 billion). Based on the 75% co-financing rate, the planned public support is circa CZK 11.5 billion. The plan foresees both supply and demand side measures. Use of funds from several funding sources is foreseen: Integrated Regional Operational Program (IROP) 2021-2027, Connecting Europe Facility Program (CEF 2), Digital Europe Programme, Just Transformation Fund (JTF), InvestEU and RRF.

An important aspect of the National Plan for the Development of Very High Capacity Networks is an infrastructure coverage map, which indicates areas with no access to very high capacity networks and where private operators do not intend to build them.

# Data on broadband development and technologies in the Czech Republic

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

- Integrated Regional Operational Programme (2021-2027)
- Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovations for Competitiveness 2014-2020
- Report of the Czech Telecommunication Office on the result of the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2015/2120
- Study on National Broadband Plans in the EU-28
- Broadband Connectivity Reports and Analyses
- Guide to High-Speed Broadband Investment
- Mobile and fixed broadband prices in Europe at the end of 2019
- Study on broadband coverage in Europe 2019

### Czech

- Národní plán rozvoje sítí s velmi vysokou kapacitou
- Digitální Česko 3

## 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.

[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 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 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 in Malta

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

#### 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 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 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...

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### Broadband in Ireland

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

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### Broadband in Hungary

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

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.

#### 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 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 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 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 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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