

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.

Summary of broadband development in Germany

The federal government has developed a framework for action with the 5G Strategy for Germany, which was launched in summer 2017, in order to support network expansion and the development of 5G applications at an early stage.

In the coalition agreement of the German Federal Government, signed in March 2018, the priority goal of a nationwide expansion of gigabit networks by 2025 has been set. In order to achieve this target, a number of measures are being implemented, which are summarised in the implementation strategy of the Federal Government for shaping the digital transformation.

In November 2019, the German government has approved a mobile communications strategy. The aim of the strategy is to ensure nationwide supply of mobile voice and data services.

In addition, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) published the Digital Strategy 2025 (Digitale Strategie 2025), with more focus on stimulating broadband take-up and usage in different sectors.

National broadband strategy and policy

Responsible authorities

- The Federal Ministry for Transport and Digital Infrastructure (Bundesministerium für Verkehr und digitale Infrastruktur, BMVI) is responsible for broadband development and the implementation of the federal government's broadband strategy.
- The Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie, BMWi) promotes the key areas of digital infrastructure and transport infrastructure.
- The Federal Network Agency for Electricity, Gas, Telecommunications, Post and Railway (Bundesnetzagentur) is responsible for implementing the regulatory framework laid down in EU and national law.
- The Federal Gigabit Bureau (Gigabitbüro des Bundes) has been designated as a national broadband competence. It maintains contact with the broadband competence centres of the federal states.

Main aims for broadband development

In the coalition agreement of the German Federal Government, the priority goal of a nationwide expansion of gigabit networks by 2025 is laid out. The goal is to expand the fibre infrastructure in

each region and each community, preferably directly to the house.

Main measures for broadband development

- The revision of the Telecommunications Act, which entered into force in May 2012, optimises the framework for the expansion and construction of high-speed networks by creating incentives for investment in new networks. It also addresses the requirements to jointly use alternative infrastructures like sewer or energy networks or apply cost-effective technologies like micro-trenching to increase broadband coverage and reduce deployment costs. The revised Telecommunications Act strengthens competition between service operators by prescribing open access obligation to networks as well as by introducing consumer protection measures in the telecommunications sector.
- The DigiNetz Act has introduced the Cost Reduction Directive 2014/61/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on measures to reduce the cost of upgrading high-speed electronic communication networks.
- Broadband mapping: as a central information point, the broadband atlas shows broadband penetration and availability. A bi-annual report on the broadband atlas contains a detailed analysis of broadband availability at the federal and state levels. Furthermore, the Bundesnetzagentur has launched a nationwide infrastructure atlas to facilitate the use of synergies in infrastructure deployment. The atlas contains spatial data about the infrastructure of companies and institutions, such as geo-data about fibre optic lines, empty ducts, radio towers and masts as well as radio stations.
- With the Federal Government's 5G Strategy published in July 2017, the framework conditions and fields of action are now described in order to implement the roll-out of 5G networks in Germany by 2025 and to develop Germany into the leading market for 5G networks and applications. This goal is supported by the Federal Government through measures in five fields of action:
 - Promote network roll-out;
 - needs-based provision of frequencies;
 - promotion of cooperation between the telecommunications and user industries;
 - coordinated and targeted research;
 - early initiation of 5G in cities and communities.
- With its mobile communications strategy, the Federal government has announced major plans to improve its mobile coverage. The Federal Government is working with countries and municipalities to implement a mix of different measures. This includes:
 - the creation of transparency regarding the actual supply situation as well as monitoring of the mobile network expansion,
 - the identification of infrastructure and properties that the Federal Government can provide for the construction of masts,
 - the provision of EUR 1.1 billion for the development of up to 5,000 unpowered areas,
 - relieving local authorities of the implementation of the support program in order to ensure effective and cost-effective expansion,
 - the identification of acceleration potentials in mobile network expansion in cooperation with countries and municipalities.
- With the Network Alliance for a Digital Germany (Netzallianz Digitales Deutschland) the government has established a forum for discussion by telecommunications developers and network operators on the conditions for incentivising market investments. It acts both as a forum for new ideas and as a discussion platform.
- In addition, the members of the Netzallianz have decided on the Zukunftsoffensive Gigabit-Deutschland on 7 March 2017. The aim of the joint strategy is to invest 100 billion euros in order to build a high-performance broadband network throughout Germany by 2025. This

should enable network speeds in the gigabit range.

National and regional broadband financial instruments

The federal states in Germany support broadband development with a number of measures and financial means. Some of the current measures are:

- The coalition agreement includes information on a public financing requirement of EUR 10 to 12 billion in this legislative period, which is provided in a gigabit investment fund. For this purpose, the proceeds from the award of the UMTS and 5G licenses are earmarked. These public funds will be used for upgrades using fibre optic technology. The funding schemes are designed to systematically upgrade underserved rural areas.
- Federal funding programme (Förderprogramm zum Breitbandausbau): this programme supports network expansion to provide high-speed broadband networks in underserved areas. The support of the federal state permits nationwide expansion of minimum 1 Gbps connections in areas that were previously underserved. The maximum amount of federal funding per project is EUR 30 million.
- Combination with other funding programmes, e.g. from the federal states, is possible and can be added to cover the remaining co-financing. An overview of ongoing and completed funding processes in different federal states (Bundesländer) can be found at Breitband-Ausschreibungen.

Other financial measures:

- The German government-owned development bank KfW offers the loan 208 IKK to municipalities to support investments in infrastructure including broadband infrastructure. Though the loan is capped at EUR 150 million annually, it can be combined with financial resources from public funding.
- The Landwirtschaftliche Rentenbank also offers loans to support projects intending to establish or improve communication infrastructure including broadband networks in rural areas.

Data on broadband development and technologies in Germany

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

- Implementation strategy of the Federal Government "Shaping the digitalisation"
- 5G Strategy for Germany
- Gigabit Initiative for Germany
- 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

German

- DigiNetzGesetz
- Zukunftsoffensive Gigabit-Deutschland
- Digitale Strategie 2025
- Digitalisierung gestalten, Umsetzungsstrategie der Bundesregierung

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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...

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 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.

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 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 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.

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