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.

Summary of broadband development in Latvia

The national broadband plan of Latvia meets the high-speed internet coverage targets of the DAE for 2020. Through the broadband project, the coverage will be improved for the rural regions of Latvia as operators will be able to provide access services using neutral passive optical infrastructure supported by state aid programme. Latvia supports the Gigabit society targets in the policy plan for the electronic communications sector 2018-2020. The new Electronic communications sector development plan for 2021-2027 is expected in 2021. The national 5G roadmap was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in February 2020.

National broadband strategy and policy

Responsible authorities

- The Ministry of Transport (Satiksmes ministrija) is responsible for developing electronic communications policy and legislative acts (laws and Cabinet Regulations) as well as implementing Latvia's broadband policies.
- The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (Vides aizsardzības un reģionālās attīstības ministrija) is responsible for e-governance initiatives, state information technology affairs and development of national frequency and numbering plans.
- The Public Utilities Commission (Sabiedrisko pakalpojumu regulēšanas komisija) is responsible for regulation and supervision of the electronic communications sector.
- The Competition Council (Konkurences padome) acts as national competence centre, promotes competition in all sectors and aims at ensuring free and fair competition environment to every market participant.
- The Latvia State Radio and Television Centre (Latvijas Valsts radio un televīzijas centrs, LVRTC) implements the broadband deployment project.

Main aims for broadband development

Latvia's national broadband strategy (Nākamās paaudzes platjoslas elektronisko sakaru tīklu attīstības koncepcija 2013.-2020.gadam) was adopted in 2013, amended in 2016. Three components of the electronic communications network are discussed in the strategy – backbone network, transport network and subscriber lines ("last mile"). Also a description of the present situation and an analysis of strengths and weaknesses is provided. Latvia has one of Europe's most extensive FTTX-networks and is willing to extend this network to provide nation-wide high speed access by 2020. Latvia supports the Gigabit society targets in the Plan for the electronic communications sector

2018-2020.

The new Electronic communications sector development plan for 2021-2027 is drafted and expected to be announced in 2021. The plan will regulate communications sector policy throughout the territory of Latvia. The target groups of the plan are electronic communications enterprises, planning regions, local governments and residents. The plan aims to facilitate the transition towards very high capacity communications networks capable of providing end-users with Internet access services with data transmission speeds of at least 100 Mbps in both urban and rural areas.

Given the limited amount of public funding available, the efforts will concentrate, without replacing private investment, in areas where, for economic reasons, electronic communications operators have no interest in deploying infrastructure or do so insufficiently. to further the European Union's strategic objectives for electronic communications. The plan aims also at providing the availability of equal and high-quality electronic communications services throughout the territory of Latvia to all residents, state and local government institutions, enterprises and socio-economic driving forces.

The plan sets out two lines of action:

- Development of broadband electronic communications infrastructure in line with the Connectivity Communication,
- Security of electronic communications networks and services.

It is planned to attract resources from the European Regional Development Fund and national co-financing, as well as Recovery and Resilience Facility and the Connecting Europe Facility 2.

Main measures for broadband development

- Regulation measures: Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers ensure the possibility to intervene in common projects with other merchants for investors who develop optical fibre networks (Article 43).
- The implementation of the broadband project is progressing at a good pace. Supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the project is deploying dark fibre and access points up to the centre of municipalities in rural areas currently not served by NGN and where there are no plans for NGN development ('white' areas defined according to EU broadband guidelines). Private providers have to deliver the last mile, for which no public support is foreseen.
- Latvian Parliament adopted transposition measures of the Cost Reduction Directive, in particular the new Law on high-speed broadband networks, in April 2017.

Data on broadband development and technologies in Latvia

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

- Summary of the Latvian Broadband Strategy - Concept for the Development of Next Generation Broadband Electronic Communications Networks 2013-2020 (national broadband strategy)
- Study on National Broadband Plans in the EU-28
- Guide to High-Speed Broadband Investment
- Latvia - 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

Latvian

- Elektronisko sakaru nozares attīstības plāns 2021. - 2027.gadam
- Nākamās paaudzes platjoslas elektronisko sakaru tīklu attīstības koncepcija 2013.-2020.gadam
- Platjoslas projekts, LVRTC

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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 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.

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.