

Connectivity

The EU's goal is for Europe to be the most connected continent by 2030.



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Staying connected is a vital part of our lives. We all share a desire to keep in contact with one another, no matter how far apart we are. This desire was even stronger during the COVID-19 pandemic, as many of us were kept apart from loved ones for a long time.

Connectivity allows us to reach and connect with others no matter where they are in the world. It puts countless possibilities in the palm of our hands: we can read the latest news whenever and wherever we find convenient, follow online classes, learn skills, and seek advice from professors and professionals no matter how far away they are. And, we can browse online markets to find the most convenient products and services, or offer our own products to customers around the world.

The EU has taken action in a range of areas to improve connectivity. It ended roaming charges, allowing us to take our mobile subscriptions on our travels through the EU at no extra cost. The WiFi4EU initiative funded the setup of free Wi-Fi hotspots in local communities.

The EU also provides funding, develops technical guidance and brings together experts to support public administrations and businesses working to improve network coverage and introduce 5G networks across Europe.

The focus now is on creating a Europe with harmonised rules for connectivity services, so that we can enjoy the same benefits no matter where we are in the EU. EU action also helps to bring more choice to consumers, reduce bills, and set a higher standard of service.

Actions already taken at EU level include:

- introducing the European electronic communications code, which sets clear rules applicable across all of Europe
- supporting wireless networks such as 5G through the radio spectrum policy programme
- ending of roaming charges in the EU, and a price-cap on communications within the EU
- leading global discussions on Internet development and governance

The main goal for connectivity in the Digital Decade is for every European household to have access to high-speed internet coverage by 2025 and gigabit connectivity by 2030.

Follow the latest progress and learn more about getting involved.

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Follow the Commission's work on connectivity at [@connectivityEU](#)

Latest

VIDEO | 26 August 2021

Catalonia's EU-funded fibre network connects over 400 government sites and promotes competitive rural digital services

Thanks to the European Regional Development Fund, Catalonia built a fibre backbone to connect over 400 government and local administration

sites across the region. By offering the network's extra capacity to the market, this 'open network' allows local operators to compete to use the infrastructure and deploy services to under-served rural areas. "We have generated an ecosystem of over 80 local operators to promote competence and competitiveness in these local areas with very high-quality services", explains David Ferrer, Catalanian's Secretary of Digital Policies, in this video interview.

VIDEO | 26 August 2021

Rural broadband enables smart and responsive water management

In this video, Jouke Velstra, Director and Senior Consultant at Acacia Water, explains how the EU-funded 'Farmers measure water' project combines high-speed rural broadband and state-of-the-art sensors to help farmers and water authorities in the Netherlands to better manage water usage in the face of climate change. Through rapidly relaying data on soil moisture, temperature and salinity, farmers and water authorities work together to keep crops healthy, improve water and soil quality, and reduce water waste.

VIDEO | 26 August 2021

Bavaria's State aid scheme brings gigabit connectivity to socio-economic drivers in grey areas

Bavaria's State aid scheme is bringing gigabit-capable infrastructure to businesses, households, hospitals, educational and public institutions, in more than 420 rural municipalities. The scheme aims to bring Bavaria's overall high-speed broadband coverage to 99%, with gigabit access throughout Bavaria by 2025. For rural areas, State funding has improved coverage (of at least 30 Mbps) from 27% to over 92% in the last seven years, notes Bavarian State Minister for Finance and Regional Identity, Albert Füracker, in this video interview.

REPORT / STUDY | 25 August 2021

Annual country reports on Open Internet from national regulatory authorities — 2021

The European Commission has published the annual country reports from National Regulatory Authorities on compliance with the provisions on open internet for the fifth consecutive year.

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Open Internet

EU rules enshrine the principle of open Internet access: internet traffic shall be treated without

discrimination, blocking, throttling or prioritisation.

Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications

The Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) improves consistency of EU telecoms rules.

ICT and standardisation

ICT specifications ensure that products can connect and interoperate with each other, boosting innovation, and keeping ICT markets open and competitive.

Electronic communications laws

The EU's electronic communications policy improves competition, drives innovation, and boosts consumer rights within the European single market.

The Connectivity Toolbox

Advanced networks are one of the most fundamental blocks of the EU's digital transformation and an essential pillar of the recovery. The timely deployment of fibre and 5G networks will offer significant economic opportunities for the years to come, as a crucial asset for European...

EU radio spectrum policy for wireless connections across borders

Enabling seamless wireless connections across borders so we can share media, stay informed and enjoy the latest innovative technologies wherever we are takes coordination and cooperation on radio spectrum. This dynamic and rapidly evolving sector needs a flexible, market...

5G

5G is the critical new generation network technology that will enable innovation and support the digital transformation.

112: EU Emergency number

Need help? 112 is your life-saving number! 112 is the European emergency phone number, available everywhere in the EU, free of charge.

Roaming: connected anywhere in the EU at no extra charge

Europeans can call, message and use mobile data anywhere in the EU without extra costs thanks to the 'Roam like at home' policy.

Intra-EU calls: lower and limited charges for calling other EU countries

Europeans pay lower and limited charges for, Intra-EU calls, or calling other EU countries.

Connected and automated mobility

Connected and Automated Mobility provides a unique opportunity to make our transport systems safer, cleaner, more efficient and more user-friendly.

Satellite broadband

Satellite broadband is available to provide fast internet connectivity throughout every EU country.

Support for Broadband rollout

Increasing broadband network coverage is key for reaching the EU's Gigabit Society objectives. EU businesses, project managers, as well as local and regional authorities can find information on broadband best practices, financing tools, technological and business solutions, as...

WIFI4EU

WiFi4EU

The WiFi4EU initiative promotes free access to Wi-Fi connectivity for citizens in public spaces...

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