

SR 12/2018 – “Broadband in the EU Member States: despite progress, not all the Europe 2020 targets will be met”

Italy

Key Statistics on the progress for coverage and take up:

1. Fast broadband coverage (30 Mbps): increased from 11% to 87% between 2011 and 2017 (EU level: from 48% to 80% between 2011 and 2017). *EU target 100%*
2. Fast broadband coverage in rural areas: 39% in 2017 (EU Level: 47% in 2017). *No separate EU target for rural areas, so 100% target applies*
3. Percentage of households with ultra-fast subscription (100 Mbps): increased from 0% to 5% from 2013 to 2017. (EU Level: from 3% to 15% from 2013 to 2017). *EU target 50%*

Financing

- The broadband network is build and operated by a public authority; other operators pay a fee to use the network and own the connections to users ('last mile connections').
- €3 billion national resources, comprising €1.4 billion euro from ERDF and EAFRD (including national co-financing) and €1.6 billion from other national sources.

Negative points

- It is unlikely that fast broadband will be available to all citizens by 2020, in view of the past progress and current plans.
- National strategy for ultra-fast broadband issued in March 2015, three years after deadline (2012).
- Previously, when a different funding model was used in public sector tenders ('gap funding', where the public sector contribution makes the private sector investment profitable), the tendency was to use the copper wire infrastructure of the incumbent.

Positive points

- Significant increase in broadband coverage since 2011, through a combination of public and private investments.
- With correct implementation of the current plans, involving mainly-mainly coaxial cable and fibre, speed over 100 Mbps up to 1 Gbps is possible. This makes the 2025 Commission objectives achievable.