

The Broadband challenge: EU support to Connect Rural Areas



Isane Aparicio
BCO-SF Deputy Director

isane.aparicio@broadbandeurope.eu

The Initiative

2015, three Commissioners launch the idea:

Launch a network of Broadband Competence Offices

- To overcome BB roll out bottlenecks: from 2.5 BEUR to Euro 6 BEUR
- Maximise impact of ESI Funds



What is a BCO?

- Broadband Competence Offices (BCOs) provide technical support to representatives of local and regional authorities on ways to invest effectively in broadband – and whenever possible in combination with financial instruments.
- Set up at the national or regional level, BCOs operate as single contact points to stakeholders delivering broadband, notably in conjunction with the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF).



What is the Broadband Competence Offices Support Facility?

The European Commission, DG AGRI, DG REGIO & DG CNECT set up a support facility (**BCO-SF**), a dedicated office for support and facilitation between all the BCOs through regular workshops and constant networking.

Objectives

- To support and strengthen the existing BCOs and promote the creation of new BCOs
- To create and disseminate knowledge, including the exchange of best practices
- To identify potential multipliers, involved in the implementation of broadband plans in Europe



BCO-SF services overview

- Support the network of BCOs by **generating and sharing knowledge** on the following areas:
 - **Funding:** funding opportunities offered by ERDF and/or EAFRD during 2014-2020
 - **Regulatory issues:** regulatory frameworks such as those related to public procurement, EU State Aid rules, telecom regulations and the Directive 2014/61/EU on reducing costs of broadband roll-out
 - **Good practices:** identify and share of practical know-how and exchange of good practices, notably around the Broadband Awards



Good practices:

[BCO Playlist](#)



Regulatory issues:

➤ Thematic Groups

- White Area Mapping
- Cost Reduction Directive
- Demand Agregation
- WIFI4EU

➤ Training Days:

- State Aid
- Technology Neutrality and Broadband
- Blended Finance for Broadband



Funding: Overview of EU Funding for Broadband

- **Grants:**

- **ESIF:** 6 billion Euros to Broadband investment (ERDF/EAFRD 2014-2020) + **National funding**
- **H2020 – 2018/2020:** increase of the budget for agricultural research
 - ✓ Registration Horizon 2020 InfoWeek now open- [Register online](#) until 20 October.
 - ✓ 16 November: [Bioeconomy policy Day](#)
 - ✓ 17 November: [Digititising agriculture and food value chains](#)

- **Loans / Capital through EFSI/EIB/EIF - to project holders and to public authorities**

e.g. => The Connecting Europe Broadband Fund (CEBF) to invest in broadband network infrastructure across underserved areas of Europe



FARMING 4.0

Moving towards connected & sustainable agriculture in Europe

What can digital technologies & advanced farm machines deliver?

Country	Total ESIF allocation (EUR)	EISF Broadband allocation (EUR)			% of EU allocation supporting broadband (%)	Number of EU funded programmes supporting broadband		
		Total ESIF Broadband allocation (EUR)	Out of which ERDF (EUR)	Out of which EAFRD (EUR)		Total number of EU programmes supporting broadband	Out of which ERDF	Out of which EAFRD
Austria	4,9	26,459,915	0	26,459,915	0.54%	1	0	1
Bulgaria	9,8	25,500,000	0	25,500,000	0.26%	1	0	1
Cyprus	0.87	19,318,000	19,000,000	318,000	2.21%	2	1	1
Croatia	10,7	203,505,521	203,505,521	0	1.89%	1	1	0
Czech Republic	23,9	521,380,364	521,380,364	0	2.17%	1	1	0
Estonia	4,4	43,085,106	43,085,106	0	0.97%	1	1	0
Finland	3,7	12,600,000	0	12,600,000	0.34%	1	0	1
France	26,7	670,080,100	618,684,756	51,395,344	2.51%	28	24	4
Germany	27,9	370,640,000	147,840,000	222,800,000	1.33%	13	6	7
Greece	20,3	312,559,407	253,699,998	65,571,561	1.54%	2	1	1
Hungary	25,0	399,917,769	399,917,769	0	1.60%	2	2	0
Ireland	3,3	75,000,000	75,000,000	0	2.23%	2	2	0
Italy	42,6	1,161,129,979	888,450,239	272,679,740	2.72%	40	19	21
Latvia	5,6	43,974,115	43,974,115	0	0.78%	1	1	0
Lithuania	8,3	46,816,670	43,050,150	3,766,520	0.56%	2	1	1
Poland	86,09	1,020,222,652	1,020,222,652	0	1.18%	1	1	0
Romania	30,8	100,000,000	100,000,000	0	0.32%	1	1	0
Slovak Republic	15,3	117,916,840	97,750,000	20,166,840	0.77%	2	1	1
Slovenia	3,8	57,518,277	50,018,277	7,500,000	1.48%	2	1	1
Spain	37,4	444,622,827	446,813,716	16,747,500	1.19%	13	11	2
Sweden	3,6	234,967,021	77,698,821	157,268,200	6.44%	6	5	1
United Kingdom	16,4	212,769,361	187,778,142	25,066,256	1.30%	7	4	3

EU measures to adapt Common Agricultural Policy to the technological advance



Next events

- ✓ Rural Innovation & BB 12 October in Lisbon
- ✓ Technology Neutrality 19 October in Madrid
- ✓ Launch Event 20 November in Brussels
- ✓ Broadband Awards 20 November in Brussels



BCO-SF contact details

The Broadband Competence Offices Support Facility

Tel: +32 2 282 09 18

Email: info@broadbandeurope.eu

<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/broadband-competence-offices>

