

## Priority 8 Digital connectivity

### • 8.1 Digital networks

*The goal of the sub-priority is to build very high capacity networks, which will form a platform for providing a variety of digital value-added services while ensuring that no part of the country or a society group will be left without adequate digital connectivity.*

*Measures will be taken to support digital connectivity in remote and sparsely populated areas by stimulating private internet operators' investment to provide internet access to end users in these areas. The actions will be concentrated in the high-speed mobile internet development in the country, incl. the timely release of the RF spectrum, allowing investments in deployment of 5G mobile networks in the country.*

*Gigabit connectivity for transport arteries and settlements will be ensured, which will facilitate the access and use of public services and will enhance synergies and coordination between different sectors through innovative applications.*

#### Indicators

Title	Source	Current value	Target value	Average EU value
Fixed Very-High Capacity Network (VHCN) coverage, DESI, % households	EC	42	52	44
Fast broadband (NGA) coverage, DESI, % households	EC	77	86	90
NGA high-speed rural coverage, DESI, % households	EC	28,4	60	59,3

## Areas of impact

### ○ 8.1.a High-speed connectivity

The main objective of the policy will be to stimulate the deployment and upgrade of existing networks to ensure access to networks that provide very-high speeds and use digital technologies with high security as a key factor for the realisation of digital transformation. Work will continued for the development of the backbone state network the Unified Electronic Communications Network by building optical connectivity to all municipalities and increasing its capacity in order to ensure the functioning of digital governance.

#### Relevant United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development goals

**Goal 9** Innovations and infrastructures

- **9.c**

#### Assessment of financial resource

550 000 000 leva

#### Funding

- National budget (NB)
- European funds and instruments

### ○ 8.1.b 5th Generation Mobile Networks (5G)

It aims to simplify and accelerate 5G network roll out and facilitate the dissemination through infrastructure sharing policies and assistance in building complementary infrastructure. Conditions will be created for building short-range wireless access points, as well as for fostering infrastructure sharing. The efforts will be concentrated in providing 5G connectivity along transport corridors, developing intelligent transport systems, building "smart" settlements, etc.

#### Relevant UN Sustainable Development goals

**Goal 9** Innovations and infrastructures

**Goal 11** Sustainable cities and communities

#### Assessment of financial resource

206 300 000 leva

#### Funding

- NB
- European funds and instruments

## • 8.2 Digital infrastructure

*The aim of this area is to build an efficient cloud infrastructure, data exchange tools, architecture and managing mechanisms for thriving data sharing and artificial intelligence ecosystems. Investments should cover actions with a significant impact on data spaces covering data sharing architectures (including data exchange standards, best practices, tools) and management mechanisms, as well as energy efficient and reliable cloud infrastructures and related services in order to facilitate combined investment.*

### Indicators

Title	Source	Current value	Target value	Average EU value
Electronic information sharing, DESI, % enterprises	EC	<b>23</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>34</b>
Cloud, DESI, % enterprises	EC	<b>6</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>18</b>
Big data, DESI, % enterprises	EC	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>

## Areas of impact

### ○ 8.2.a Data Centers

In order to exploit the full potential of data, the free movement of data between Member States and between different sectors will be ensured by the protection of personal data and consumers' rights. Users and service providers will benefit from clear rules for access to and use of data, forming a fair and practical framework of reliable data management mechanisms.

Data will be prioritised in key sectors such as education, healthcare, transport, public administration.

Steps will be taken towards: construction and development of the necessary data centers; creating conditions for open access to data and results, as well as access to large arrays of data, generated by public organisations to be used by business.

### Relevant UN Sustainable Development goals

**Goal 9** Innovations and infrastructures

**Goal 11 Sustainable cities and communities****Assessment of financial resource**

96 000 000 leva

**Funding**

- NB  
- European funds and instruments

- o **8.2.b Cloud Infrastructure**

The goal of the impact area is to migrate key systems and registers in a cloud environment, to expand the capacity and productivity of the state hybrid private cloud to cover almost all server ICT resources of public administrations. This will place them on centralised platforms, reliably secured and sustainable under all conditions with 24/7 availability and protection against cyberattacks.

Priority will also be given to providing and maintaining high-speed and secure communication connectivity as a basis for offering educational services by further developing of cloud-based educational environment for the provision of services, including software as a service (SaaS), infrastructure as a service (IaaS) and platform as a service (PaaS).

**Relevant UN Sustainable Development goals****Goal 4** Quality education**Goal 8** Decent work and economic growth**Goal 9** Innovations and infrastructures**Assessment of financial resource**

120 000 000 leva

**Funding**

- NB  
- European funds and instruments

- **8.3 Digital inclusion**

*The aim of this sub-priority is to overcome the territorial imbalances associated with the spread of broadband access. In this way, the utilization of the economic and social benefits of information and communication technologies (ICT) related to overcoming obstacles in distance and development, especially in backward areas, will be favored. Efforts will be made to support digital connectivity in remote and sparsely populated areas as well as in the centres of social life. The scope of the initiative which provides free public internet access will be expanded.*

<b>Indicators</b>				
<b>Title</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Current value</b>	<b>Target value</b>	<b>Average EU value</b>
At least 100 Mbps fixed broadband take-up, DESI, % households	EC	<b>11</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>26</b>
Internet users, DESI, % Individuals	EC	<b>67</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>85</b>
People who have never used the internet, % Individuals	EC	<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>
Banking, % internet users	EC	<b>13</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>66</b>

## Areas of impact

### ○ 8.3.a Connectivity for Centers of Social Life

Gigabit Internet connectivity in places such as enterprises, schools, libraries, research and various public centres will provide access to the best services and applications for businesses and citizens.

Gigabit Internet connectivity will support innovative teaching and training methods in order to ensure access to up-to-date learning materials, tools and techniques, and to enable learners to acquire e-skills while ensuring effective distance learning. The access of enterprises and industrial sectors, especially those that actively use digital technologies, will be stimulated in order to create new applications and new business models for the production and distribution of their goods and services under more competitive conditions.

#### Relevant UN Sustainable Development goals

**Goal 4** Quality education

**Goal 9** Innovations and infrastructures

**Goal 11** Sustainable cities and communities

**Goal 12** Responsible consumption

**Assessment of financial resource**

**Funding**

36 800 000 leva

- NB
- European funds and instruments

o **8.3.b Free access to internet**

Awareness and demand for gigabit Internet access will be stimulated by the opportunity for citizens to test the latest digital tools, including wireless Internet access in public places and places such as libraries, railway stations or employment services and training centres.

In the period until 2030, will be prioritised the continuation of the goal of better integration of local communities into the digital single market, users to gain an idea of the Gigabit Internet society, to improve digital literacy and expand the range of services provided to these locations by continuing proactive use of instruments at EU level.

**Relevant UN Sustainable Development goals**

**Goal 4** Quality education

**Goal 8** Decent work and economic growth

**Goal 9** Innovations and infrastructures

**Goal 12** Responsible consumption

**Assessment of financial resource**

**Funding**

59 000 000 leva

- NB
- European funds and instruments