

P8 Digital connectivity

• 8.1 Digital networks

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

Measures will be taken to support digital connectivity in remote and sparsely populated areas by stimulating investment by private Internet operators to provide internet access to end-users in these areas. The actions will also be concentrated in the development of high-speed mobile internet in the country, including the timely release of a radio frequency sector allowing investments for the introduction of 5G mobile networks in the country.

Gigabit connectivity for transport arteries and settlements will be ensured, facilitating access to and use of public services and improving synergies and coordination between different sectors through innovative applications.

Performance indicators

name	source	current value	target value	EU average
Fixed Very High Capacity Networks (VHCN) coverage, % households, DESI	EC, DESI	42	52	44

Fast broadband (NGA) coverage, % households	EC, DESI	77	86	90
Rural broadband (NGA) coverage, % households	EC, DESI	28.4	60	59.3

Areas of impact

○ 8.1.a High-speed connectivity

A key policy goal will be to stimulate the deployment and upgrading of existing networks to ensure access to ultra-high speed networks and the use of digital technologies with a guaranteed high level of security as a key factor in the realisation of the digital transformation. Work will continue to develop the state support network by building optical connectivity to all municipalities and increasing its transmission capacity to ensure the functioning of digital governance.

Relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure

- Sub-goal 9.c

Assessment of the financial resources required

BGN 550,000,000

Sources of financing

- State budget
- European funds and instruments

○ 8.1.b Fifth generation mobile networks (5G)

5G networks will be enabled and made easier to deploy through infrastructure sharing policies and supporting the construction of complementary infrastructure. Conditions will be created for the establishment of low-bandwidth wireless access points, as well as the promotion of infrastructure sharing. Work will be done to provide 5G connectivity along transport corridors, develop smart transport systems, build “smart” settlements, etc.

Relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Goal 11 Sustainable cities and communities

Assessment of the financial resources required

BGN 206,300,000

Sources of financing

- State budget
- European funds and instruments

• 8.2 Digital infrastructure

The aim of this area is to build effective cloud infrastructure, data sharing tools, architectures and mechanisms for managing thriving ecosystems for data sharing and artificial intelligence. Investments should cover actions with a significant impact on data spaces covering data sharing architectures (including data exchange standards, best practices, tools) and governance mechanisms, as well as energy-efficient and reliable cloud infrastructures and associated services, with a view to facilitating combined investments.

Performance indicators

name	source	current value	target value	EU average
Electronic information sharing, % enterprises	EC, DESI	23	50	34
Cloud computing, % enterprises	EC, DESI	6	24	18
Big data, % enterprises	EC, DESI	7	21	12

Areas of impact

○ 8.2.a Data centres

To exploit the full potential of data, the free flow of data between Member States and across sectors will be provided by ensuring the protection of personal data and the protection of consumers. Users and service providers will benefit from clear rules on 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, health, transport, public administration.

Steps will be taken to: building and developing the necessary data centres; and creating conditions for open access to data and results, as well as access to large databases generated by public organizations to be used by businesses.

Relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Goal 11 Sustainable cities and communities

Assessment of the financial resources required

BGN 96,000,000

Sources of financing

- State budget
- European funds and instruments

○ 8.2.b Cloud infrastructure

The aim of the impact area is to migrate key cloud systems and registers, to expand the capacity and productivity of the state hybrid private cloud to cover almost all server ICT resources of administrations. This will place them on centralized platforms, reliably secured and resilient under all conditions, with 24/7 availability and protection from cyber attacks.

Priority will also be given to ensuring and maintaining high-speed and secure communication connectivity as a basis for offering educational services, further developing a cloud-based educational environment for service provision, 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 Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Assessment of the financial resources required

BGN 120,000,000

Sources of financing

- State budget
- European funds and instruments

• 8.3 Digital inclusion

The goal of this sub-priority is to address the territorial imbalances associated with broadband penetration. This will also help to reap the economic and social benefits of information and communication technologies (ICT) in overcoming distance and development bottlenecks, especially in backward areas. Efforts will be made to support digital connectivity in remote and sparsely populated areas as well as in centres of social life. The scope of the initiative providing free public internet access will be extended.

Performance indicators

name	source	current value	target value	EU average
At least 100 Mbps fixed broadband take-up, % households	EC, DESI	11	33	26
Internet users, % persons	EC, DESI	67	85	85
People who have never used the Internet, % persons	EC, DESI	24	4	9

Areas of impact

○ 8.3.a Connectivity for centres 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 learning methods to provide 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 to create new applications and new business models for the production and distribution of their goods and services in more competitive conditions.

Relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 4 Quality education

Goal 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Goal 11 Sustainable cities and communities

Goal 12 Responsible consumption and production

Assessment of the financial resources required

BGN 36,800,000

Sources of financing

- State budget
- European funds and instruments

○ 8.3.b Free Internet access

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

The period before 2030 will prioritise the continuation of the goal to better integrate local communities into the Digital Single Market, to give users an overview of the Gigabit Internet society, to improve digital literacy and to extend the range of services provided at these locations by continuing the proactive use of tools at EU level.

Relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 4 Quality education

Goal 8 Decent work and economic growth

Goal 9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Goal 12 Responsible consumption and production

Assessment of the financial resources required

BGN 59,000,000

Sources of financing

- State budget
- European funds and instruments