BCO Network

The European **Broadband Competence Offices** Network

EUSALP Conference 5 October 2023

Funded by the European Union

www.bconetwork.eu

Connectivity targets

2020

NGA targets

30 Mbps minimum for all citizens

100 Mbps minimum for 50% of households

2025

Gigabit targets

100 Mbps upgradable to 1 Gbps for all households

1 Gbps for all schools, transport hubs, main providers of public services and digitally intensive enterprises

5G wireless broadband coverage for urban and rural areas

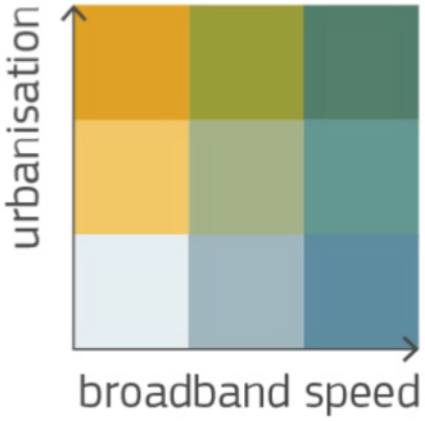
2030

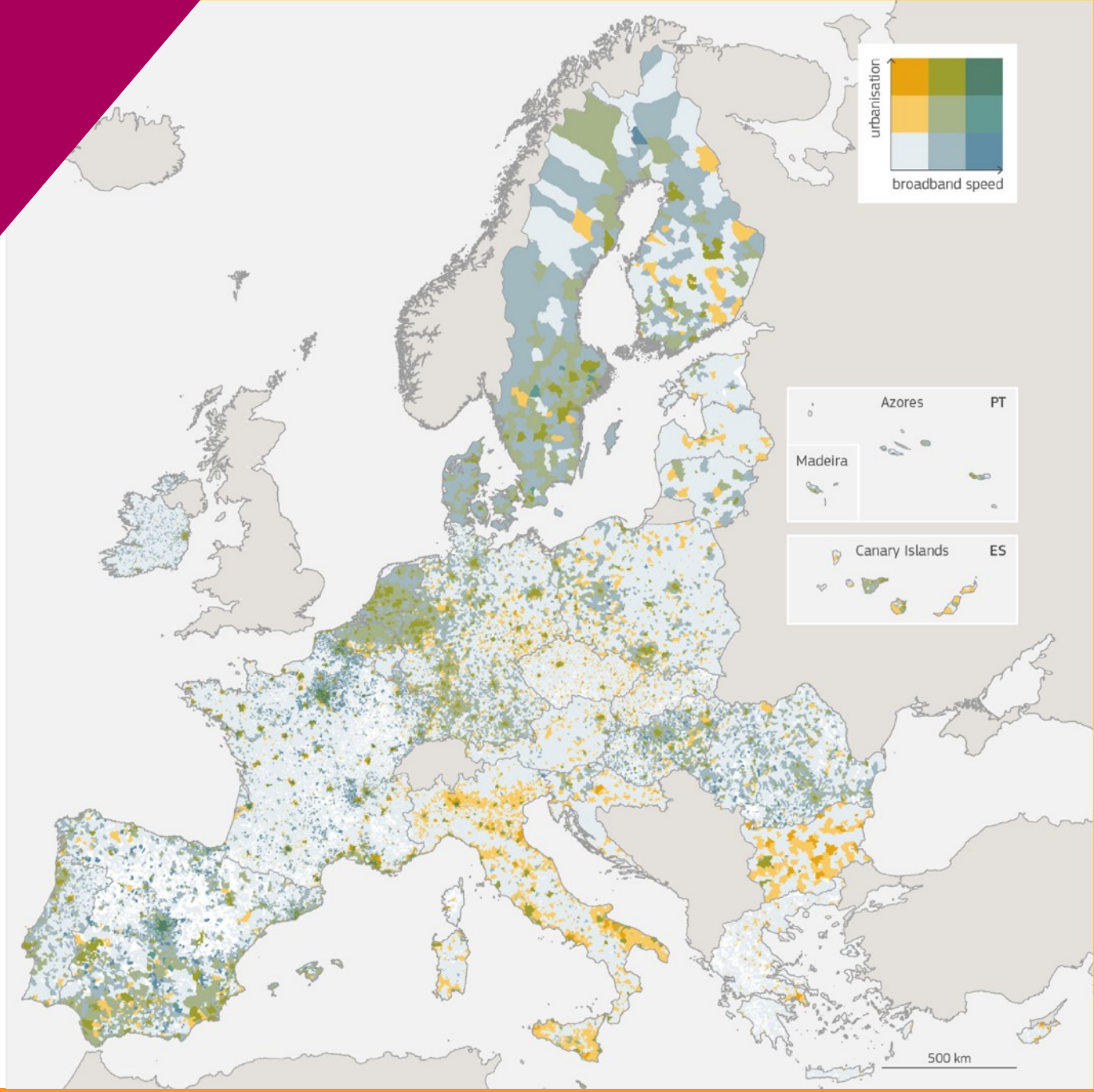
Digital Decade targets

1 Gbps for all

5G everywhere – urban and rural areas

Urbanisation / Broadband speed





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Mountain / rural areas challenges

Mountain / rural areas challenges

Diverse environment:

- Wealthier / populous areas
- Poorer / less populous remote regions

→**No ‘one size fits all’ solution**

Mountain / rural areas challenges

1. How does this impact **connectivity?**

2. Two main technologies: **fixed and mobile connectivity**

3. What role for the **public sector** to intervene?

Mountain / rural areas challenges

How this impacts connectivity:

- investment **private sector** driven

- therefore **business case** driven

- **demographics** matter / **topology** matters

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Mountain / rural areas challenges

Two main technologies:

fixed and mobile connectivity

Special challenge of mountain areas:

‘line of sight’ and accessibility

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Mountain / rural areas challenges

What role for the **public sector** to intervene?

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Possible actions to accelerate mountain / rural connectivity

Possible actions to accelerate mountain / rural connectivity

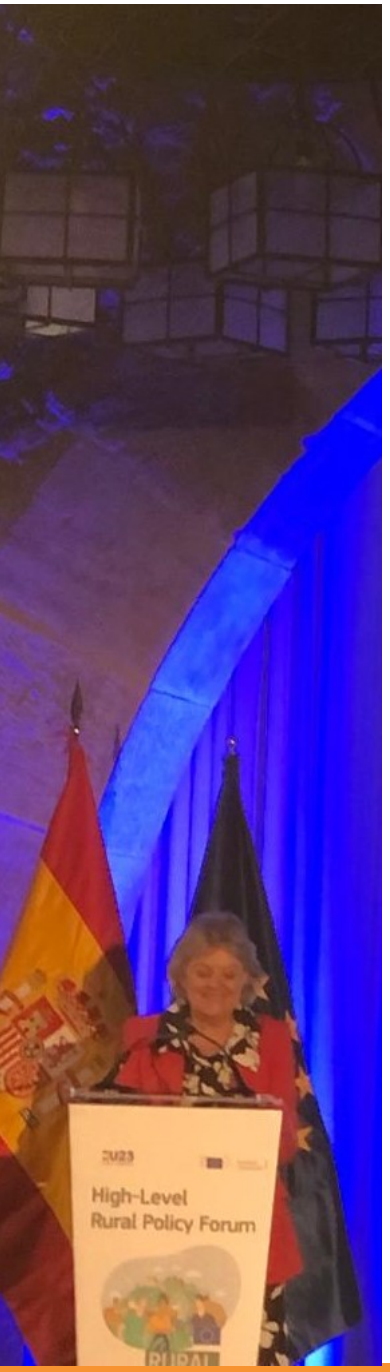
- ✓ Help overcome **business case gap**
- ✓ Connectivity **demand stimulation** in rural areas
- ✓ Accelerate / facilitate **infrastructure sharing** – notably for mobile connections (Cost Reduction Directive)
- ✓ Streamline / facilitate **construction permits**

Possible actions to accelerate mountain / rural connectivity

- ✓ Create dialogue with **investors** to identify intervention needs
- ✓ Work with **national authorities in charge of "mapping"** to target (and refine) intervention areas
- ✓ Work with and strengthen **BCOs** in countries / regions to support local stakeholders

Voices from Sigüenza

High level policy forum on **rural development**



Voices from Sigüenza

High level policy forum on rural development

1. **Bottom up**: let the locals define the strategies

2. Empower / support **local action groups**

3. Empower **more women in the decision / planning** process

4. Where there is no business case, explore "**third places**" – commons of ICT

5. CAP Strategies have left connectivity behind – can **RRF** fix all the problems?

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BCOs focus on market failure areas

Provide **Technical Assistance**

Improve **broadband mapping** / needs identification

Accelerate **public fund** allocations

Support **EU fund** programming

Exchange **good practices** cross-country and cross-border

Address **State aid hurdles**

Develop and share **innovative aid schemes**

Provide **technology insights** to stakeholders