European broadband: investing in digitally driven growth

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In its Broadband Communication, the Commission stressed the importance of all Member States having an operational broadband plan with defined national targets aligned on European broadband targets, as well as a balanced set of policy measures to incentivise investment in fast and ultra-fast internet. This should be specifically based on thorough implementation of the EU regulatory framework for e-communications, consistent implementation of the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme, adequate cost reduction measures and coherent application of the State Aid Broadband guidelines. In support of these plans, the Communication included a commitment to review national broadband plans as part of its Digital Agenda governance.

This paper **examines the current state of play with respect to the implementation of national broadband plans in the EU-27 countries, Croatia, Norway and Switzerland**. It attempts to foster the sharing of best practices with a view to providing further guidance to Member States on how to succeed in applying effective measures to achieve both national and Digital Agenda broadband targets. The paper:

- looks at the targets set for national plans as well as institutional aspects;
- assesses private and public broadband investment activities;
- summarises national approaches to facilitating broadband investment;
- explores national strategies to stimulate demand for broadband and digital services.

Lastly, the report draws conclusions and outlines the next steps.