



WiFi4EU

Better connecting Europe to its citizens

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President Juncker's State of the Union (September 2016)

"Everyone benefiting from connectivity means that it should not matter where you live or how much you earn.

So we propose today to equip every European village and every city with free wireless internet access around the main centres of public life by 2020."



Promote free Wi-Fi connections in the main centres of community life

Support Wi-Fi equipment in public spaces (public administrations, libraries, parks, town squares, etc.), so as to

- allow all Europeans **experience the benefits of the Gigabit Society**, in line with the DSM connectivity objectives;
- encourage and promote **innovative digital services** developed locally: eGov, eHealth, eTourism, etc.



COMMISSION PRIORITY

Digital Single Market



Direct impact on EU citizens and communities



Investing € 120 million in a WiFi4EU voucher scheme will result in



**...connecting
6.000-8.000 communities**

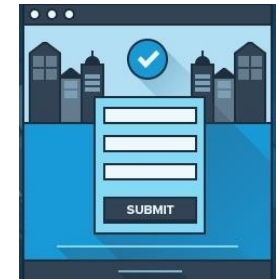


**...making 40-50 million
Wi-Fi connections per day**

Making Europe visible and helpful



A response to
local needs



Same branding
across the EU



Quality user-
experience



Shared involvement in the project



EU Vouchers

- Cover equipment and installation costs (CAPEX)
- Up to 100 % - [€ 20.000]* max. / community



Local Authorities

- Cover subscriptions to the operator (OPEX)
- At least [3 years]* in operation



Regulatory framework

- Removes legal obstacles to deployment and sharing of Wi-Fi access

Simple & non-bureaucratic: a user-centric scheme



- On-line applications & decision
- Payment by vouchers
- Real-time monitoring
- Agile audit



*Fast deployment
on the ground*



*Building a true EU
success story*



"First-Come, First-Served" *versus* "Geographically Balanced"

Keeping the emulation while distributing fairly

- **Country maximum limits ?**
e.g. maximum % for any Member State (i.e. call closes for the country's applicants when ceiling is reached) ?
- **Country minimum number of vouchers ?**

Other distribution keys :

- **Avoiding one city/region would "catch them all"**
e.g. 1 voucher maximum per community
- **Capping amount**
– encouraging cofunding of bigger projects

No significant impact on competition

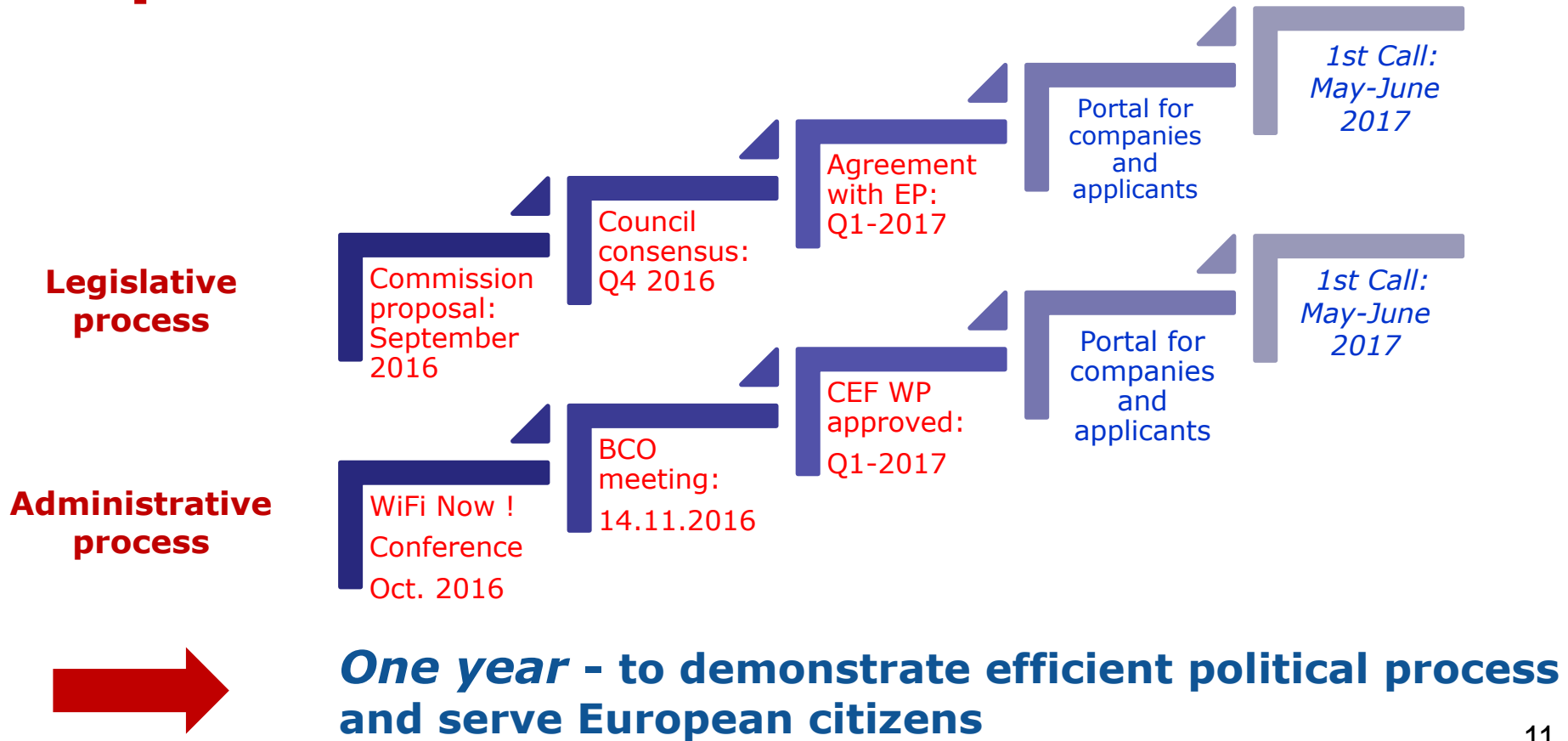
- **No duplication** of existing public or private networks of the same characteristics.
- **Light procurement rules and no expected impact on State Aids:** central management at EU level, low-value grants, dispersion of funds.
- Potential positive effect of Wi-Fi4EU on mobile operators: "**off-loading**" **3G/4G networks** reduces the risk of congestion, so lower network management costs;

First "pilot" Call for Project 2017



- Call budget: **€ 20 million**;
- Expected impact: **1.000 local communities**
- Intervention focused on **local public authorities**
 - intervention expanded to other entities with public mission (libraries, health centres, etc.) in 2018-2019;

Expected Timeline



Any question ?

- **Digital Single Market website**
<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/wifi4eu-free-wi-fi-europeans>
- **Factsheet (EN, FR, DE):**
<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/factsheet-wifi4eu>
- **Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) legislative proposal**
<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/proposed-regulation-promotion-internet-connectivity-local-communities-and-public-spaces-wifi4eu>
- **"European Gigabit Society" strategy (communication)**
<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/connectivity-european-gigabit-society>