Digital Single Market

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The Digital Single Market needs high-speed broadband for all

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To foster broadband roll out, telecom and utility companies could maximise the use of existing infrastructure, by sharing their ducts, but also their information.

--- *Posted by Gerard de Graaf, DG INFSO, Director for Electronic Communications Policy*

As pointed out by Neelie Kroes [1] in her recent speech [2] about the ingredients for ICT success in Italy Digital Single Market also needs "high-speed broadband for ALL" so we need all of you to join the discussions online [3] and share your comments and ideas!

Have you ever wondered why telecom companies and utilities keep digging up the road? Why don't they coordinate more and save money in the process? Particularly when the cost of digging represents up to 80% of the total roll-out cost [4]. What if alternative solutions would be possible?

Why should each company have its own duct infrastructure? Why is it impossible for cables to be laid down while a street is opened up anyway for maintenance works?

In order to foster broadband roll out, telecom and utility companies could maximise the use of existing infrastructure, by sharing their ducts, but also their information. For example, a more intensive use of mapping might be a good instrument to achieve that. And if digging up the road is necessary, why couldn't telecom and utility companies do that together? How could co-deployment work like?

Another barrier to efficient roll-out of high speed networks is the existing patchwork of rules on permits and obligations all over Europe. Could an EU Initiative addressing this decrease the roll-out costs?

High-speed Internet is a key factor for the global competitiveness of Europe and must not be overlooked. Let's turn all these ideas into gold!

This is also why we launched a public consultation [5] in April and asked your views on how to reduce the cost of rolling out high speed internet.

At the [Digital Agenda Assembly](#) [6], we will further discuss all these questions in a [dedicated workshop](#) [7]. In the meantime, we invite you to share your views with us online on our [engagement platform](#) [3] or by replying to the [public consultation](#) [5] before the 20th of July. You can also follow part of the discussions on Twitter using the hashtags [#da12bb](#) [8] and [#broadband4all](#) [9]

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[3] http://daa.ec.europa.eu/group/2/content
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