

# Summary of the 2017 Annual Work Plan of the Broadband Competence Offices Support Facility

The purpose of this short version of Annual Work Plan of the Broadband Competence Offices Support Facility (BCO-SF) is to provide a short overview of its mission and the planned activities for 2017.

The mission of BCO-SF for 2017 is to contribute to the creation, consolidation and animation of the BCOs network in the EU Member States.

In order to accomplish this mission, the BCO-SF project for this year includes the following Objectives:

Identify and qualify the current public designated BCOs in each member State

Promote the creation of new BCOs both at National and/or Regional level (depending on Member States institutional context)

Create and disseminate knowledge, including the exchange of current best practices

Identify potential multipliers, involved in the implementation of broadband plans in Europe

The objectives will be achieved through the following set of activities:

## Activities 2017

Prepare an **overview of the European Structural and Investments Funds** (ESIF) allocations to broadband investment for each Member State. These will be presented in factsheet format, detailing regional allocations where relevant.

These factsheets will be shared on the Broadband Europe portal, together with all other materials developed by the BCO-SF in the course of the year.

Several **publications** are planned, notably on '*Ways to set up a BCO*'.

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Animation of **Thematic Groups** to create dialogue and exchange between the BCO network members. The Thematic Groups will meet twice a year. The first meeting is planned in Brussels, on 15-16 May 2017.

In 2017 the focus points of the discussions will be on:

- Broadband planning
- Demand Aggregation & WIFI4EU

Furthermore, a continuous dialogue and exchange on the above selected subjects will be enabled through **on-line discussion groups** – to join us on ‘Futurium’ please contact us on [info@broadbandeurope.eu](mailto:info@broadbandeurope.eu)

On certain technical aspects, **training sessions** will be organised to deepen discussions around selected topics. The training sessions planned for 2017 will include ‘Blending ESIF and loan finance’ and ‘State Aid’.

**Best practice exchanges** will be a core activity of the BCO-SF. In 2017 the Broadband Awards will take place in November, where selected best practices will be presented.

In addition to the Broadband Awards the BCO-SF will throughout the year prepare **videos** on other interesting projects that have demonstrated a new or unique approach to broadband deployment.

BCO-SF will also organise a **workshop session** during the European Week of Regions and Cities in Brussels, October 2017, ‘BCOs: Making Broadband roll-out easy for EU Regions and Cities’.

If you would like a presentation by the BCO-SF to be made at any of your events please contact us at [info@broadbandeurope.eu](mailto:info@broadbandeurope.eu)

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