



European
Commission

Broadband Competence Offices Support Facility





What is the Broadband Competence Offices Support Facility ?

- The European Commission set up a support facility (**BCO-SF**), a dedicated office for support and facilitation between all the BCOs through regular workshops and constant networking.

Objectives

- To support and strengthen the existing BCOs and promote the creation of new BCOs
- To create and disseminate knowledge, including the exchange of best practices
- To identify potential multipliers, involved in the implementation of broadband plans in Europe

What is a BCO?

- Broadband Competence Offices (BCOs) provide technical support to representatives of local and regional authorities on ways to invest effectively in broadband – and whenever possible in combination with financial instruments.
- Set up at the national or regional level, BCOs operate as single contact points to stakeholders delivering broadband, notably in conjunction with the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF).

What is the BCO-SF's objective?

- Deliver on the EU Digital Agenda targets on **broadband rollout**, notably a universal coverage of 30 Mbps, and 50% of users connect at 100 Mbps by 2020.
- Contribute to the creation, consolidation and animation of the BCO network in European member states.
- Disseminate knowledge.



BCO-SF services' overview

- Support the network of BCOs by **generating and sharing knowledge** on the following areas:
 - **Funding:** funding opportunities offered by ERDF and/or EAFRD during 2014-2020;
 - **Regulatory issues:** regulatory frameworks such as those related to public procurement, EU State Aid rules, telecom regulations and the Directive 2014/61/EU on reducing costs of broadband roll-out;

BCO-SF services' overview

- Support the network of BCOs by **generating and sharing knowledge** on the following areas:
 - **Good practices:** identify and share of practical know-how and exchange of good practices, notably around the Broadband Awards

BCO-SF services' overview

- **Training:**
 - State Aid
 - Technology neutrality and broadband
 - Blended Finance for broadband

Next steps

- **EWRC** **11 October in Brussels**
- **Rural Innovation & BB** **12 October in Lisbon**
- **Technology neutrality** **19 October in Madrid**
- **Launch event** **20 November in Brussels**
- **Broadband Awards** **20 November in Brussels**



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