BCO Network

European Broadband Competence Offices Network Support Facility

2026-27 Work Plan Summary

This summary provides an overview of the objectives and planned activities of the **European Broadband Competence Offices Network Support Facility** for 2026-27.

The BCO-SF's goals are to:

- Assist in achieving the EU connectivity targets, with a focus on addressing underserved areas
- Foster collaboration among national and regional BCOs in EU Member States
- Empower BCOs to effectively serve their stakeholders and contribute to broadband development

Objectives

The BCO Network Support Facility will:

- Strengthen the engagement and identity of BCO Network members to foster collaboration and mutual support
- Provide support to BCOs in planning and programming EU funds
- Increase the involvement and engagement of regional BCOs, considering the institutional context of Member States
- Facilitate the exchange of current best practices and expert knowledge among BCOs
- Identify policy and funding multipliers to support European broadband implementation

Activities

The 2026-27 activities of the Support Facility will include, among others:

- Facilitating online discussions among BCOs, experts and European Commission representatives to address broadband deployment challenges
- Conducting capacity building and knowledge exchange sessions tailored to the needs of the BCOs
- Interacting with stakeholders pivotal to broadband deployment in the EU to foster collaboration
- Creating and distributing publications and videos to raise awareness of good practices, EU policy and funding opportunities

Capacity-building and knowledge exchange: key topics

1. Policy, funding and regulatory topics relating to, but not limited to:

- Multi-annual Financial Framework 2028-34
- Digital Networks Act
- Digital Decade Report
- Gigabit Infrastructure Act
- EU State aid guidelines
- Security and resilience: critical communication infrastructure, satellites, submarine cables, cybersecurity, border regions, outermost regions
- Cohesion, rural development and agriculture
- 5G: along and extending from transport corridors, open radio access networks, quality of service, 'EU Cybersecurity Toolbox for 5G'
- Digital skills
- Artificial intelligence and internet of things
- Important Projects of Common European Interest: cloud and infrastructure
- International Telecommunication Union investment tool

2. Project planning: providing guidance to BCOs on, among others, design, implementation and monitoring of broadband schemes and projects; stimulation and aggregation of bottom-up demand for high-speed broadband; selection of business and investment models and financing structures; information about state-of-the-art technology choices and infrastructure types; and obtaining State aid clearance.

3. Good practices: sharing of practical know-how, exchange of good practices from across the EU

4. Investment: identifying, promoting and providing advice, as well as technical support, on investment opportunities for broadband network roll-out, in particular in market failure areas, such as rural, remote and sparsely populated areas and outermost regions.

For more information, contact the BCO Network Support Facility:

www.bconetwork.eu

info@broadbandeurope.eu

+32 (0)2 282 0918

Rue Archimède 5, B-1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

For BCO Network members: forum.bconetwork.eu

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