

Pillar V: Support in piloting implementation of a state-supported scheme

The implementation of the National Broadband Plan will involve the participation of a number of key stakeholders, including consumers, service providers (existing and potential new entrants), investors (domestic and international), national and local governmental bodies, regulatory agencies and other interested organisations. To ensure that the required infrastructure and services are deployed efficiently according to the overall policy and targets, the National Broadband Plan should define specific rural broadband infrastructure projects, with clear geographical scope and participation.

Where rural projects are likely to require the participation (all or in part) of state funding, clear options should be defined for ownership, governance and financing (for example national and municipal government, private investors, network construction and operations, service providers, local businesses and consumers). Maximum advantage should be taken of cost reduction, simplified procedures for the granting of permits and infrastructure sharing. There will also be scope for procurement and operational synergies, for example by offering contracts in geographical areas singly or in combinations so as to provide different bidders with different levels of critical mass.

Rural projects in particular need to be defined so that there are short-term achievable and visible gains. This will greatly inform and encourage the necessary organisational, legal, regulatory, financing and other steps required to be efficiently implemented during national roll-out. The early rural projects are defined as pilots to test the fitness for purpose of the National Broadband Plan.