



ANNOTATED AGENDA

6th Broadband Platform Meeting
Room JDE 70
Thursday, 25 May 2023
14.30-16.30

Increasing Connectivity, Digital Resilience and Digital Maturity: Programmes and Tools for LRAs

Members of the Broadband Platform will discuss three topical issues that are currently very high on the agenda of EU institutions and national authorities. The European Commission will have the opportunity to present the Gigabit Infrastructure Act aiming for a timely deployment of the very high-capacity networks necessary to meet the EU's increased connectivity needs and corresponding financing opportunities to meet this demand. In addition, a presentation of a recent CoR study on Digital resilience of local and regional authorities will feed the discussion on the recent EU Cyber Solidarity Act, proposing actions to strengthen the detection of cyber threats and incidents, to reinforce the preparedness of critical entities and to develop common response facilities against cybersecurity incidents. Finally, the Local and Regional Digital Maturity Assessment tool (LORDIMAS) will be presented in detail, with LORDIMAS ambassadors giving feedback from its Beta-testing.

14.30 - 14.45 Welcome and presentation of current work in progress on digital policy

in the CoR by **Ilpo Heltimoinen**, *Lappeenranta City Councilor, Member of the European Committee of the Regions*, and
in DG Connect by **Franco Accordini**, *Head of Unit, Investment in High-Capacity Networks, European Commission (co-moderators)*

14.45 – 15.15 Gigabit Infrastructure Act proposal and relevant financing possibilities

On 23 February, the European Commission presented [a set of actions](#) aimed to make Gigabit connectivity available to all citizens and businesses across the EU by 2030. These initiatives keep in line with the objectives of Europe's Digital Decade, and seek to enable the transformation of the connectivity sector in the EU. First, the Commission adopted a proposal for a 'Gigabit Infrastructure Act', second, it published a draft Gigabit Recommendation and third, the Commission launched an exploratory consultation on the future of the connectivity sector and its infrastructure.

The proposed regulation on **the Gigabit Infrastructure Act** is repealing the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive and that takes into account an increased need by businesses and people to have very high capacity fixed and mobile connectivity. It is complementary to the European Electronic Communications Code and will help to significantly increase network deployment's speed and reduce the associated burden. All procedures for access to information on the existing physical infrastructure or planned civil works and for permit granting will be speeded up and streamlined. New buildings and those undergoing renovation are to be fitted out with fibre-ready in-building physical infrastructure and fibre wiring (note the link to the Green Deal and the EU Building Renovation Wave) and a fibre-ready



label for buildings and certification scheme will be launched by Member States. In addition, the GIA will reduce administrative costs and the burden of the permit procedure by rationalising and digitalising the procedures. The issuing of permits will be accelerated and the coordination of civil engineering works for the roll-out of fixed gigabit networks facilitated. This is also of relevance to public sector bodies that own or control physical infrastructure.

Furthermore, these connectivity initiatives are linked to achieving digital cohesion by leaving no one behind. They have a strong local and regional dimension, given that networks are deployed at local level.

Silvia Adriana Ticau and Hannele Lahti, DG Connect, European Commission

Followed by a Q&A session

15.15 – 16.00 Digital Resilience Study and the new EU Cyber Solidarity Act

The digital transformation of public administrations is one of the four cardinal points of the [Digital Compass](#) and Member States are investing intensely in the digitisation of their public administration. However, while more and more services provided by the EU public sector become digital and mutually interconnected, the risk of a major cyber-attacks or a physical attack on critical infrastructures sharply increases, potentially leading to a "digital pandemic".

A 2022 [CoR Territorial foresight study in addressing the digital divide and promoting digital cohesion](#) focussing on digital divides and how to overtake them examined also a number of potential scenarios of future development, using the foresight approach. One of the scenarios depicted presents a situation where the occurrence of cyberattacks is a major threat for society. Together with a greater interconnection given by the development of 5G/6G networks, a digital pandemic would likely spread fast and with severe consequences, especially for the public administration and the general public, lacking the right skills to manage cyberthreats and to contain the damages and instead increasing the infection of malwares.

The new [ECON study on Digital resilience](#) is a pioneer in the investigation of the state of play of digital resilience of local and regional authorities (LRAs) across the EU. Bearing in mind that European LRAs provide a large variety of eGovernment services and that some LRAs are also responsible for services of general and/or of economic interests, the digital resilience of public authorities encompasses the capacity to cope with threats affecting the provision of public services and the integrity of data. Thus, 'digital resilience' goes beyond the protection of ICT assets. It involves prevention and preparedness measures and, if in place, it also ensures timely responses and recovery actions from incidents.

In light of growing cybersecurity risks and an overall complex threat landscape, linked also to the Russian military aggression against Ukraine, the European Commission recently put forward a proposal for an EU Cyber Solidarity Act. The proposal aims to strengthen common EU detection and situational awareness of cyber threats and incidents, to reinforce preparedness of critical entities, including sub-national authorities, and to promote solidarity by developing common response facilities against cybersecurity incidents.

The debate on these interconnected issues will offer to the Members an opportunity to discuss, with the authors of the study on digital resilience and with representatives of the European Commission, their experience from tackling recent cyber-attacks, costs of digital non-resilience and opportunities that lay ahead to increase their digital resilience at a reasonable level.



The study and the discussion in the meeting will feed into an ongoing CoR opinion on EU Cyber Solidarity Act and Digital resilience, drawn up by rapporteur Pehr Granfalk (SE/EPP), to be discussed and adopted at the external ECON meeting on 18 October in Wismar, Germany.

Simona Cavallini, Senior Researcher and **Rossella Soldi**, Managing Director,
Progress Consulting

Agnieszka Wawrzyk, Head of Sector Secure Value Chain, DG Connect, European
Commission

Followed by a Q&A session

16.00 – 16.20 The LORDIMAS digital maturity assessment tool

LORDIMAS is a newly developed database and reporting tool that, based on a self-assessment interface, provides an overview of the state of play of digital transformation in cities, municipalities and regions. This tool is co-developed by the CoR within the [living-in.EU](https://living-in.eu) movement and now is entering its Beta testing phase.

It is composed of:

- A digital maturity survey built around seven sections (Governance, Service design, Data management, Interoperability, Technology, Service delivery and Scaling), with a clear and simple matrix and scale to answer each of the points. It will be available in all EU languages and target civil servants overseeing a digital transformation in a local and regional authority.
- An interactive dashboard to visualise your data and answers in real-time and compare yourself to your peers, for a general digital maturity assessment as well as for each section of the survey.
- A selection of best practices added by respondents in additional, non-mandatory questions, to promote their success stories and help others to get inspired, learn and adopt.
- Policy recommendations to help achieve digital transformation objectives at local, regional and national levels.

The discussion in the Broadband Platform will offer its members to exchange experience from its Alpha- and early Beta-testing, ways how to improve the final version before its launch in June and the ways how this tool should be promoted and further spread among CoR members, EU cities and regions.

Ufuk Kâhya (tbc), LORDIMAS ambassador and CoR Member

Martin Gauk, ESPON EGTC

Followed by Q&A and closing remarks