



Republic of Serbia

Ministry of Trade, Tourism and  
Telecommunications

# Enabling Rural Broadband Connectivity in Serbia

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# Introduction

- Activities of the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications
  - following broadband development;
  - participation in BB development projects (e.g. supported by EBRD, KISDI);
  - broadband mapping;
  - development and implementation of phased roll-out plan;
  - development and implementation of incentives scheme;
  - rural broadband development.



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## Broadband Mapping

- Availability of fixed broadband was mapped in Q4 2019;
- Data were gathered from all electronic communications operators with market share above 1%;
- Data resolution level was settlement level (around 4600 settlements);
- Sample was suitable and relevant for the purpose;
- Settlement level resolution provides enough data to determine white and gray areas and start incentives scheme.



## Broadband Mapping - Results

- Broadband mapping represent basis for identification of white/grey areas

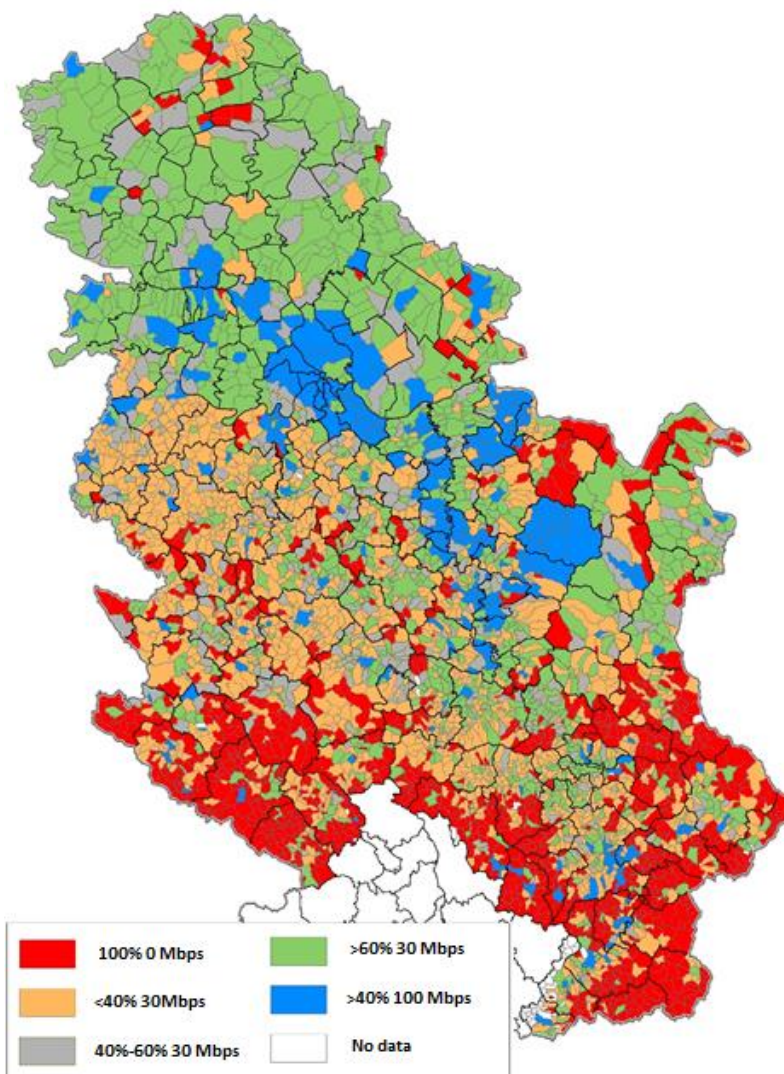
Broadband access (% of households)	Number of settlements	Number of households	% of total households	Average HH per settlement	Necessity for state intervention
No broadband access	1,370	70,712	2.84%	52	Necessary
Less than 40% with access to 30 Mbps	1,518	251,960	10.13%	166	Necessary
40%-60% with access to 30 Mbps	436	229,970	9.25%	527	Potentially necessary
Over 60% with access to 30 Mbps	989	894,895	35.98%	905	Not necessary
Over 40% with access to 100 Mbps	356	1,039,584	41.80%	2,920	Not necessary



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# Broadband Mapping - Results





## Rural Broadband Incentives

- On the proposal of the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, in Q1 2020, the Government adopted *Regulation on the establishment of Program of use of funds of the Budget fund for financing activities and improvement and development measures in the field of electronic communications and information society in 2020*;
- Regulation was based on EU Guidelines for the application of state aid rules in relation to the rapid deployment of broadband networks (2013).



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# Rural Broadband Rollout Project

- The 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the project, already being implemented:
  - approx. number of settlements covered: 475,
  - approx. number of households covered: 80.000,
  - targeted end date: Q4 2022.
  - The Ministry will deploy mid-mile, while the operators will deploy last-mile infrastructure.
  - This way, the last-mile investment in target areas become financially viable for operators.
  - Financial support: WBIF grant for technical assistance, and EBRD loan for construction of fibre mid-mile broadband infrastructure.



## Rural Broadband Rollout - MTTT

- The Ministry conducted open public calls for selection of operators (private partners) for joint infrastructure construction:
  - 3 public calls – in September, November and December 2020,
  - approx. 700 settlements were addressed by public calls.
- The Ministry will construct mid-mile segment, connecting schools/public institutions in targeted areas to optical backbone;
- Infrastructure will remain the property of the Ministry, but will be given to private partner, under agreed conditions, for long term usage (25 years).





## Rural Broadband Rollout - operators

- Within public calls, operators were invited to express interests on joint deployment of infrastructure.
- All operators are invited to inform the Ministry if they had plans to invest independently in deployment of broadband networks in one or more settlements listed in public calls.
- Selected operators will have obligation to deploy last-mile infrastructure covering at least 95% of household in targeted areas, with at least 100+Mbps.
- Operators will have obligation to provide broadband service for free for connected schools/public institutions in targeted areas.



# Rural Broadband Rollout Project

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> A phase of the project:
  - approx. number of settlements covered: 700,
  - approx. number of households covered: 115.000,
  - targeted end date: Q4 2024,
  - the Ministry will deploy mid-mile, while the operators will deploy last-mile infrastructure.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> B phase of the project:
  - approx. number of settlements covered: 600,
  - approx. number of households covered: 60.000,
  - targeted end date: Q4 2024,
  - the Ministry will deploy both mid-mile and last-mile infrastructure, and consequently made available to operators.



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**Thank you for your attention!**

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