

The Digital Infrastructure Strategy 2018 (Finland)

Right to High- Speed Internet Access

On July 1, 2010, all Finnish citizens were given a legal right to access a 1 Mbps (megabit per second) broadband connection, making Finland the first country to accord such a right. Finland supports the construction of fibre networks in areas that lack business incentives to build high speed networks.

The Digital infrastructure strategy 2018 determined objectives for the development of digital infrastructure in Finland by 2025 as well as methods for achieving these objectives.

The Finnish Government opts for a competition-driven, fibre-based network roll-out, with a special focus on and assistance for underserved areas (via public funds).

“Effective communications networks form the foundation of modern society and are a prerequisite for digitalisation. Phenomena such as artificial intelligence, the data economy, the Internet of Things (IoT), machine-to-machine (M2M) communication, automation and robotics development, and virtual reality require high-speed, almost latency-free and secure networks.”

The Digital Infrastructure Strategy 2018 (Finland)

Goals

The goal of the strategy is that the fixed and wireless broadband networks offered in Finland are adequate in terms of speed, quality and latency to provide the services and innovations of the future.

The strategy is aimed at achieving a situation in which digital infrastructure better supports the utilisation of automation, robotisation and the real-time data economy, thereby promoting the development of, among other things, the next stages of healthcare, media, education and transport.

Adequate digital infrastructure contributes to enabling accessibility to public services that are increasingly in digital form. The introduction of new services and technologies, such as remote electronic services and operations, should not be hindered by legislation that could contribute to undermining investment in digital infrastructure.

The Digital Infrastructure Strategy 2018 (Finland)

Goals

Finland aims to develop digital infrastructure at least in line with the European Union's broadband targets. According to the targets set by the European Commission for 2025, European households, in both cities and rural areas, should have the opportunity to access connections with a transfer rate of at least 100 Mbps and which can be increased to one gigabit per second.

All of the main socio-economic actors, such as schools, universities, research centres and transport centres, as well as all public service providers, such as hospitals and agencies, should have the opportunity to access very high capacity connections that allow users to transfer data at a rate of 1 gigabits per second.

The Finnish Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) foresees investments amounting to EUR 50 million. It includes an investment support scheme to increase the quality and availability of high speed connectivity network in areas where such connections are not provided by the market mechanisms.

The Digital Infrastructure Strategy 2018 (Finland)

Responsible Authorities

- The Ministry of Transport and Communications is responsible for communications and broadband policy, including legislation, guidance and supervision of the administrative sector.
- The Finnish Transport and Communications Agency is an authority for licence, registration and approval matters. It ensures access to high-quality and secure communications connections and services.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is the managing authority for the rural development programme of Mainland Finland and is responsible for broadband projects funded from the rural development programme.
- The Finnish Food Authority is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of broadband projects funded by the rural development programme.
- Regional councils, the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment and municipalities are also involved in the implementation of publicly subsidised broadband projects.

The Digital Infrastructure Strategy 2018 (Finland)

Measures

- Promoting the building of a cost-effective and fast network
- Ensuring sufficient funding for the building of networks
- Allocation of frequencies and promoting the building of high speed networks with appropriate access conditions
- Increasing the demand for high-speed connections
- Promoting network competition
- Supporting research and innovation