# EU 5G Action Plan: Strategic Initiative for Digital Transformation and Connectivity

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**Location**: Brussels, Belgium

## Executive Summary

The 5G Action Plan is a strategic initiative by the EU aimed at deploying 5G infrastructure and services to enhance competitiveness in the global market, with projected revenues of €225 billion annually by 2025. Launched in September 2016, the plan outlines measures for coordinated 5G deployment across member states, including early network introduction, spectrum availability, and urban deployment. It emphasizes the importance of public-private partnerships and research to drive innovation. The plan supports various applications, such as the Internet of Things and advanced mobile services, facilitating industrial transformation and new business models. Recent funding announcements, including €128 million for 5G projects and €104 million for 6G research, reflect ongoing EU commitment to digital connectivity and leadership in mobile technologies.

## Characteristics

* The 5G Action Plan aims to establish 5G networks across the EU, enhancing competitiveness and enabling significant economic growth, with projected revenues of €225 billion by 2025.
* It outlines measures for coordinated deployment, including early network introduction, spectrum availability, and urban deployment.
* The plan supports innovation through multi-stakeholder trials and an industry-led venture fund.
* 5G will facilitate industrial transformation, IoT applications, and new business models across various sectors.
* The initiative is closely linked to the European Electronic Communications Code, promoting favorable conditions for 5G deployment.

## Actors

| Category | Actor |
| --- | --- |
| Political Actors | European Union; EU Member States; European Commission |
| Research and Innovation Actors | EU-LAC Digital Alliance; Digital Innovation Hubs |
| Economic Actors | Telecommunication Companies |

## Main Themes

| Category | Subcategory |
| --- | --- |
| Technology & Innovation | 5G |
| Digital Transformation & Strategy | Digital Infrastructure; Digital Economy |

## Practical Applications

* The 5G Action Plan, launched in September 2016, aims to boost EU efforts for the deployment of 5G infrastructures and services across Europe.
* The EU 5G public-private partnership (5G-PPP) is actively involved in research and development, feeding results into the global standardization process and preparing for large-scale trials and demonstrators in cooperation with key sectors.
* The European Electronic Communications Code supports the deployment and take-up of 5G networks, focusing on timely assignment and availability of radio spectrum and investment incentives.
* A total of €128 million in funding has been announced to support 31 new 5G infrastructure projects through the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF Digital).
* The Commission has opened calls worth €323 million under the digital strand of the Connecting Europe Facility programme (CEF Digital) to support advanced digital connectivity infrastructures.

## Commitments

* Targeting early network introduction of 5G by 2018, with commercial large scale introduction by the end of 2020 at the latest.
* €128 million in funding announced to support 31 new 5G infrastructure projects by December 2024.
* Opening of calls worth €323 million to support advanced digital connectivity infrastructures under the Connecting Europe Facility by October 2024.
* Launch of a €104 million call to support research and innovation in mobile networks for 6G by April 2025.