Contact:

ProArbeit kAöR
Mr. Tim Brauckmüller
Sachsenring 11
DE- 27711 Osterholz-Scharmbeck
Email: leadpartner@bird-project.eu

www.bird-project.eu

Abstract:

Broadband networks are increasingly becoming the infrastructure of the knowledge based society and economy. Being able to access the data highways is therefore a key precondition to enable persons as well as regions to take part in the information age.

Insufficient access to high speed internet and lack of bandwidth at reasonable prices are hindering the adaptation or integration into the information society and economy and even more the implementation of state of the art innovation strategies. This holds especially true for inhabitants, enterprises and public bodies of rural areas which are left disadvantaged in comparison to urban agglomerations.

The solution lies in a combined approach of providing a convenient broadband infrastructure for all regions and citizens as well as developing and making use of intelligent and efficient e-services.

BIRD

Broadband Access for Innovation and Regional Development

Broadband recommendations for the North Sea Region

Interreg North Sea Region

European Community
European Regional Development Fund

1. Implement access for all people, aim for 100% broadband coverage. Broadband internet connection must become a basic supply.

At least 10 % of EU 25 population, or about 50 million individuals, were excluded from broadband access in 2007.

2. Find a common definition for broadband and overwork the current definition of broadband.

In 2007 the EU Commission defined broadband lines as those with capacity equal to or higher than 144 Kbit/s.[1]

- Until 2010 a connection speed of 2Mbps up- and downstream has to be the standard, available for every end user.

Everyone must be able to use applications gathered in the so called triple play in a streamlined version.

Triple play usually means internet, telephone and IP TV. For a first step it was agreed to reduce the definition of IP TV to video phoning and video conferences.

- The connection has to be a flat rate for time and capacity.
- The latency period has to be low.

The latency period is relative as it depends on bandwidth, service used and length of the line.

3. Until 2015 a connection speed of at least 100 Mbps up- and downstream (symmetric DSL) has to be available for every inhabitant of the EU.

4. Focus on the development of new products, services and new concepts during the coming years. Utilizing the realized broadband infrastructure effectively as well as efficiently.

5. Set up thematic clusters for the development of e- Services and strategic tools for local implementation in the context of regional development.

e.g. the i2010 Digital Local Agenda[2] *with the action lines: eParticipation of citizens in local decision-making; eInclusion, digital literacy and eCapacity Building; Full access to affordable high bandwidth infrastructures for everyone;*

6. Development of digital local networks between administrations and the private sector; Advanced municipal services in a multi-channel environment.

Note: *An uncritical focus on bandwidth use as success criteria will possibly broaden the broadband gap between metropolitan and rural areas instead of narrowing it. It would lead to the development of quick- not optimized-applications coming from already high speed environments. This would leave the part of the population in areas with insufficient bandwidth marginalized. Therefore the focus of action must be twofold: providing a convenient infrastructure to everyone in the EU as well as making the use of internet and its applications more bandwidth efficient.*

Abbreviations:

- Upstream: connection from user to internet
- *Latency period- time until the first information package reaches the user*
- Mbps – mega bit per second
- IP TV- Internet protocol television

http://www.agendadigitallocal.org/