

BRESAT



Needs of the Region: Bulgaria

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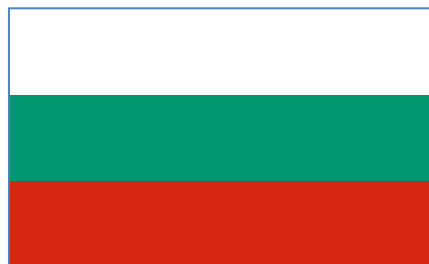
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Donoussa
Municipality of Naxos and Small Cyclades



The Needs of the Region: Bulgaria



The Broadband Needs of Bulgaria and the Non-Technical Roadblocks

The aim of this presentations is to capture the Regional Broadband Needs of Bulgaria and identify any potential non-technical roadblocks that exist.

Presentations may be posted of the EC Broadband Portal





I. What would be the main objectives of a scheme?

To provide broadband to specific users (e.g. households, schools, farms, hospitals) in remote regions

- The targeted users are various, from agriculture and fisheries, to e-government, e-justice .
- As example is given the answer from the Ministry of agriculture and food (MAF) - Currently analyzes are carried out on the target areas that will remain after the implementation of the project, which is broadband access, socio-economic analysis, as required by the EC economic analysis related to the proposed technological solutions, supply and demand certain services.
- This will be the basis for a **National plan for infrastructure for next generation access**, which is being developed and will justify the measures for the next programming period for the development of broadband next generation.

To meet the EC Digital Agenda

- Yes, this is a target during the whole previous and current period. Options – EU financial frame 2014-2020.





I. What would be the main objectives of a scheme?

To support economic growth

- The theme is included in all ministries and programs, to be developed.
- Mainly – MTITC and MAF (Operational programs)

To enable e-Government

- Ministry of transport, information technologies and communications(MTITC) - e-education, e-health and e-Justice are situated in different programs and pointed out that one of the main things is to understand the principles in e-government providing all services, including those being developed by several ministries.
- Currently MTITC is developing a subset program - National Digital Bulgaria.
- Individual ministries have submitted their targets such as e-justice, e-health, but said no idea where are their positioned in the operational programs . MAF – agri-communities





2. What kind of scheme is needed?

- ❑ According a governmental program - **National plan for infrastructure for next generation access and National Digital Bulgaria.**
- ❑ **BUT!!! We are looking for an *integrated approach*:**



- ❖ Large and various internet services for all kind of users: governmental, business, research, agriculture, public, specific services.....;
- ❖ GATEWAY to different satellite constellations - and UP-DOWN LINK is a must. Bulgaria has an existing satellite ground station infrastructure, missing only the appropriate antenna and the satellite user licenses;
- ❖ IT support to common regional strategies and prevention plans development & management -Data mining, information and access for the needs of risk and emergencies management; monitoring of changes and the efficiency of various data sets

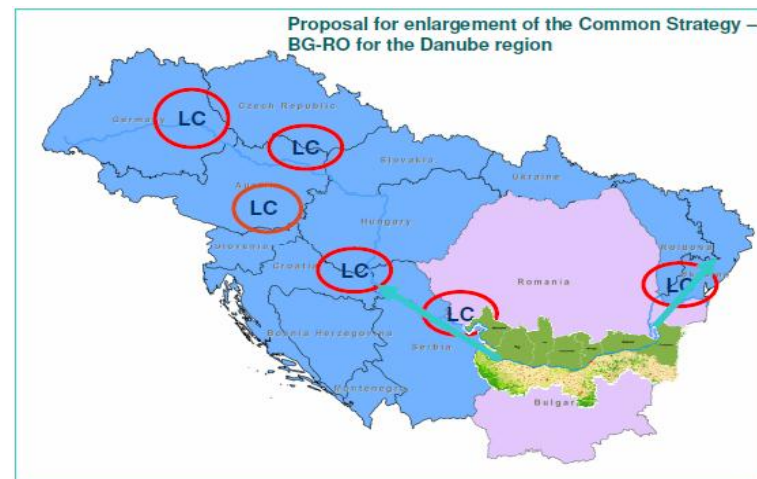




2. What kind of scheme is needed?

Where would a scheme operate?

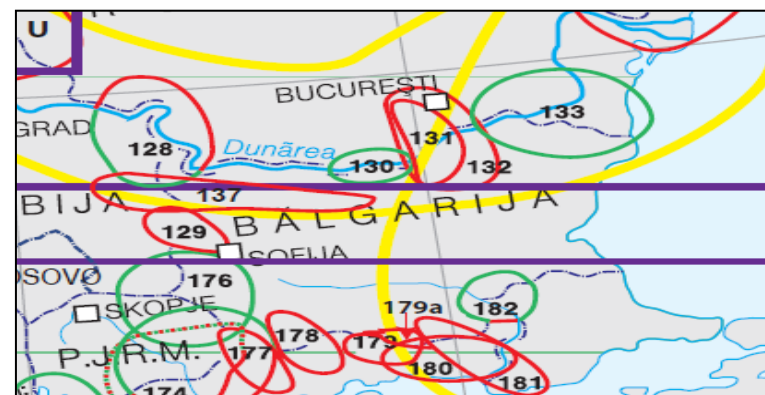
Currently analyzes of target areas have been carried out. It is discussed that beside ground territorial specific locations we will look on the sea border areas – Marine traffic, fisheries and coastal guard. Bulgaria is external frontier (green and blue) of EU.



Would a scheme be technology neutral or specific to satellite?

No one solution fits everywhere:

- Standalone satellite for remote locations
- Small wireless clusters with satellite backhaul can be very cost effective where fixed line broadband is non-existent or of poor quality





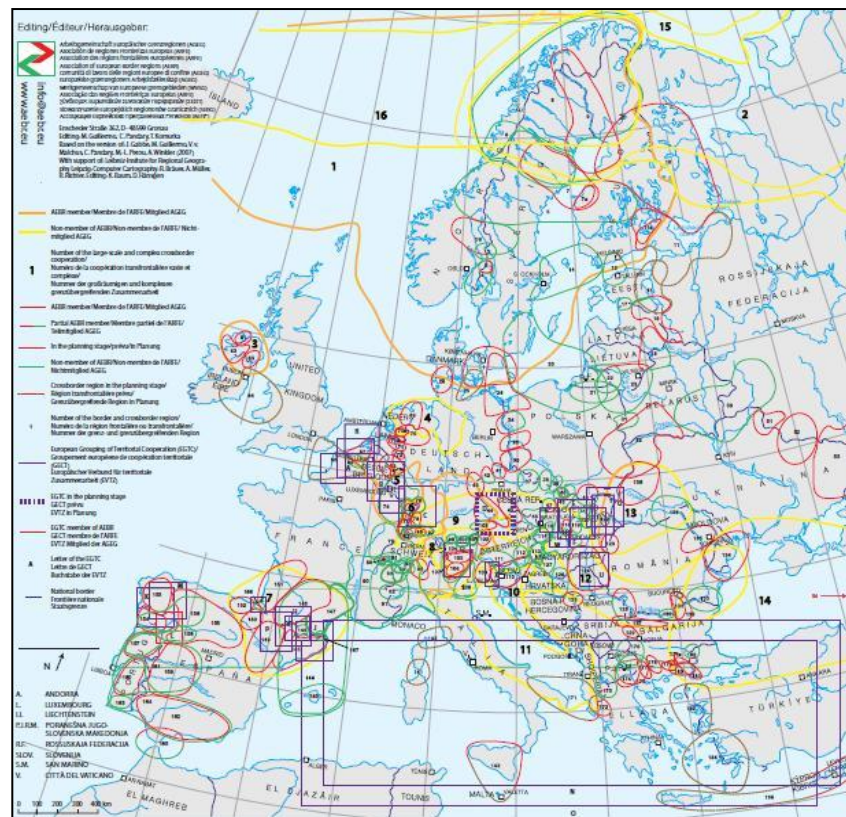
2. What kind of scheme is needed?

Potential areas of interest: Euro-regions (cross-border, trans national.....)

Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)

WE PROPOSE REGIONAL COOPERATION APPROACH:

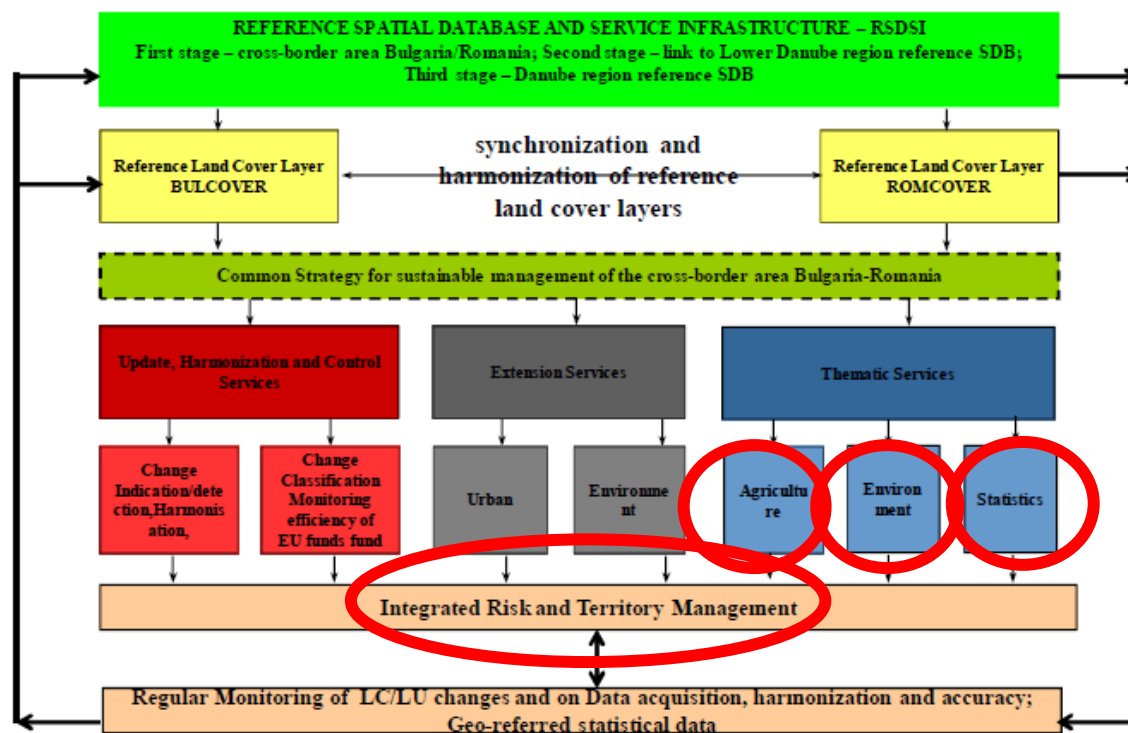
- ❖ Bulgaria – Romania cross-border region (70 000 km²);
- ❖ Bulgaria – Greece cross-border Euroregions;
- ❖ Possible enlargement – Mid-Pyrenees
- ❖ Many others.....





2. What kind of scheme is needed?

First stage common strategy for sustainable management of the cross-border territory: Bulgaria - Romania





2. What kind of scheme is needed?

How would you anticipate any scheme working?

It is too early to answer such question. We are looking for cooperation with INMARSAT-Broadband Global Area Network (BGAN)

Have you run similar schemes in the past?

Partially. Solving problems for:

- Different local authorities
- Different specific purposes such as digital television access





3. What would you expect the main outcomes of a scheme to be?

What would you want to ensure?

- We support the example of Scotland – “technology neutral – to ensure that all potential technologies could be considered and ensured value-for-money for the people of” Bulgaria;
- At the same time we support the EU REGIONAL COHEGION policy and STRONG NATIONAL OPERATIONAL CAPACITY;
- A gateway in Italy , France or South Africa is not a good solution for the countries from Eastern Europe;
- There is a strong need of ground stations network in Bulgaria in support of the broadband satellite initiative.

What would you want to avoid?

To avoid overlapping of management by different operators on the same parts of the territory and lack of direct up-down link to satellite constellations.





4. Potential Sources of Funding

EU Structural and Agricultural Funds

- Still under discussion and coordination as Bulgaria is preparing the next program (2014-2020) agreement with the EU;
- For the moment the leading government structure is MTITC.

National initiatives

- To support / enable national E-government policy and to support agri-policy;

Local initiatives

- proposed pilot area – Ruse municipality and Ruse-Giurgiu Euroregion;
- A further two other Euroregions between BG and RO;
- Support to risk management is a good opportunity (data mining).





4. Potential Sources of Funding

Possible areas of end user interest:

- Links to transport network – long distance travels – railway, auto bus;
- Links to info on LPIS and on tender for agri-funding;
- Emergencies;
- Priority users.

Will there be a value-added combined service?

Proposal for a common project for:

- Preliminary assessment of the end – user needs and priorities;
- Technical capacity (including satellite ground stations network), e-learning, e-culture, financial model, action plan for the selected euro-regions....;
- Monitoring of the effect and flexible scheme for management – till 2020;
- Target – the village must become attractive area for living and investment.





5. How A Voucher Scheme Works – *under discussion on the objectives for partnership*

Voucher schemes minimise procurement procedures by:

- Implementing a call-off tender based on the creation of a list of registered broadband service providers which are able to provide the service and which meet minimum performance criteria defined by the public authority
- Inviting eligible end-users to approach any registered service provider and choose the one that best suits their needs.

Once selected, service providers:

- Provide, install and activate the equipment for eligible end users;
- Collect vouchers from end users;
- Pass the vouchers to the public authority for payment.





5. How A Voucher Scheme Works – *under discussion on the objectives for partnership*

- Work done by SABER and ESOA;
- Recognised by the European Commission as useful “demand stimulation” for closing the digital divide;
- Feasible in terms of implementation while respecting EU funding rules;
- Lighter and more flexible to implement for public authorities as they avoid possible long & bureaucratic tender procedures;
- Empowers end-users giving them a wide choice of suppliers to meet their needs.





6. Non-Technical Roadblocks

Agreeing what a Scheme should be?

MTITC informed that a digital map of existing broadband infrastructure is under development. The plan is to create a database that will be maintained. It was added that this will be reflected in all probability in the legislative or regulatory change that engages cadastre to support this digital map of all infrastructures, as required by the EC - to minimize investment costs by using existing infrastructure, including available utilities.

Funding a Scheme?

Ministries have declared that funding will be a priority and a scheme would be allocated financial resources from different programs in the next program period 2014-2020.

Managing and Administering a Scheme?

For the moment MTITC would potentially manage and administer a scheme, with the participation of MAF and other ministries.





Thank you for the attention!

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