Technology and Policy Considerations for the Rural Narrow-to- Broadband-to-VHC Transition

10-11 December 2019

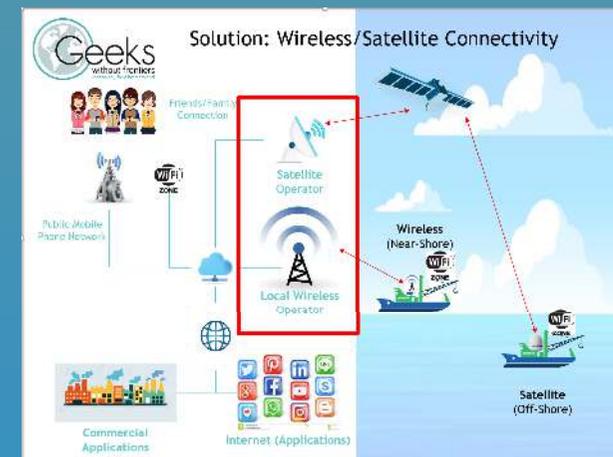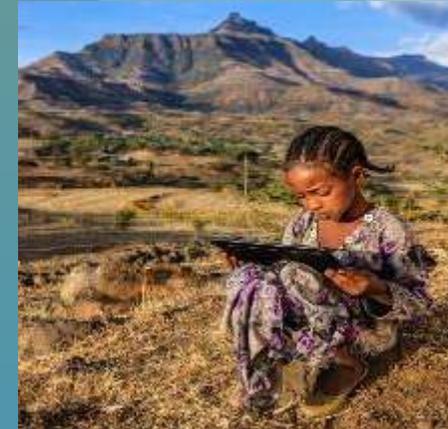Brussels

The Panel:

- **Marie LAMOUREUX,** Director Regulatory and Public Affairs, Altitude Infrastructure

- **Jean-Hubert LENOTTE**, Chief Strategy and Resources Officer, Eutelsat

- **Dr Peter GRÜTER,** CFO, Fastweb

- **Anthony WHELAN**, Director for Electronic Communications Networks & Services, DG CONNECT, European Commission

Geeks Without Frontiers

- Not for Profit Platform for global impact and change

- Mission: connect the unconnected & address the SDG's

- Focus: models that make that possible by:
  - Enabling connectivity
  - Removing barriers to connectivity

Solution: Wireless/Satellite Connectivity

Removing barriers to connectivity:

Geeks has developed Model Law and Best Practice for...

- Fiber
- Wireless] Dig Once!

- Satellite: Community Connect!

Community Connect!

Removing barriers to satellite connectivity:

- Spectrum allocation/management

- Blanket licensing

- Strategic liberalization

- Transparency of regulatory & licensing policies and pricing

DigOnce!

Geeks wrote its own DigOnce! Model Law and contributed to the US FCC "State Model Code for Accelerating Broadband Infrastructure Deployment and Investment" (a model and subject to change)

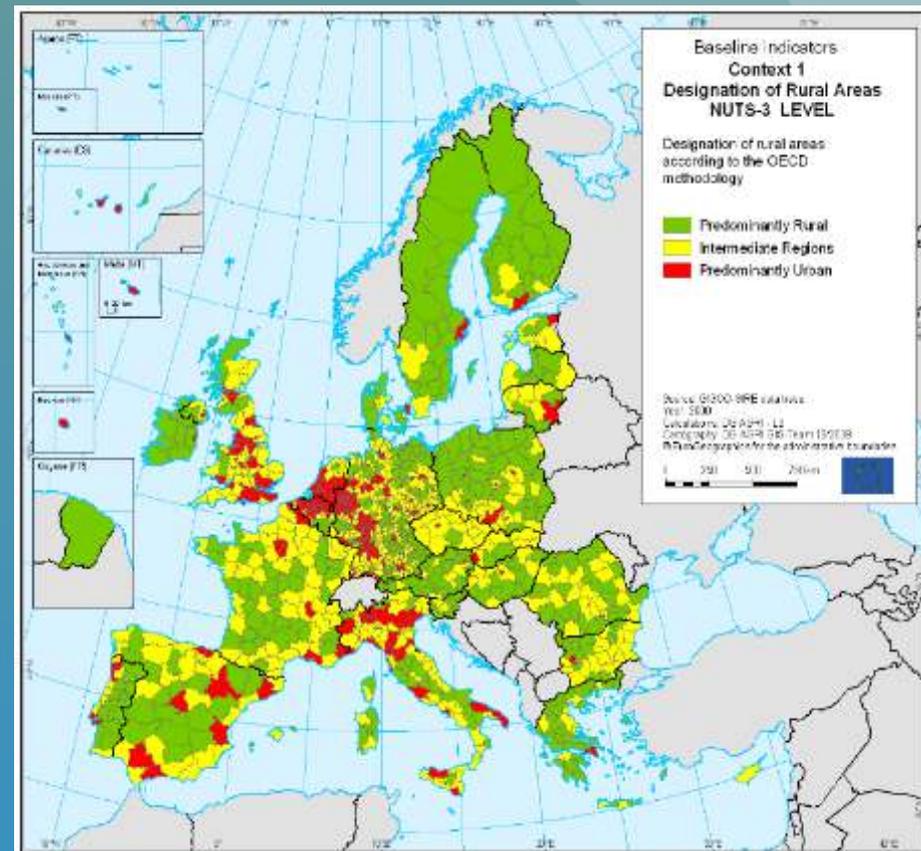Main topics of much debate included:

- Definition of broadband: speed/latency?

- Definition of 'pole' / attachment regs?

- Definition of Rural:<500 people per SqM?

- A proposal for discussion: "Every provider of Communications Services and Broadband Dependent Subscription Services in the State shall contribute to the Rural Broadband Deployment Assistance Fund in an equitable and non-discriminatory manner."

- USF CAP with surplus to RBDAF

EU Rural Statistics

- Population of EU: 512 M & 221 M households.

- Definition of Rural: <300 people per 1 km^2

- 28% (143 M/69 M) live in Rural areas

- 23.7 % (121 M/52 M) at risk of poverty or social exclusion (mainly in Eastern and southern EU)

Source: Eurostat/Statistica

Baseline indicators
Context 1
Designation of Rural Areas
NUTS-3 LEVEL

Designation of rural areas according to the OECD methodology

Predominantly Rural
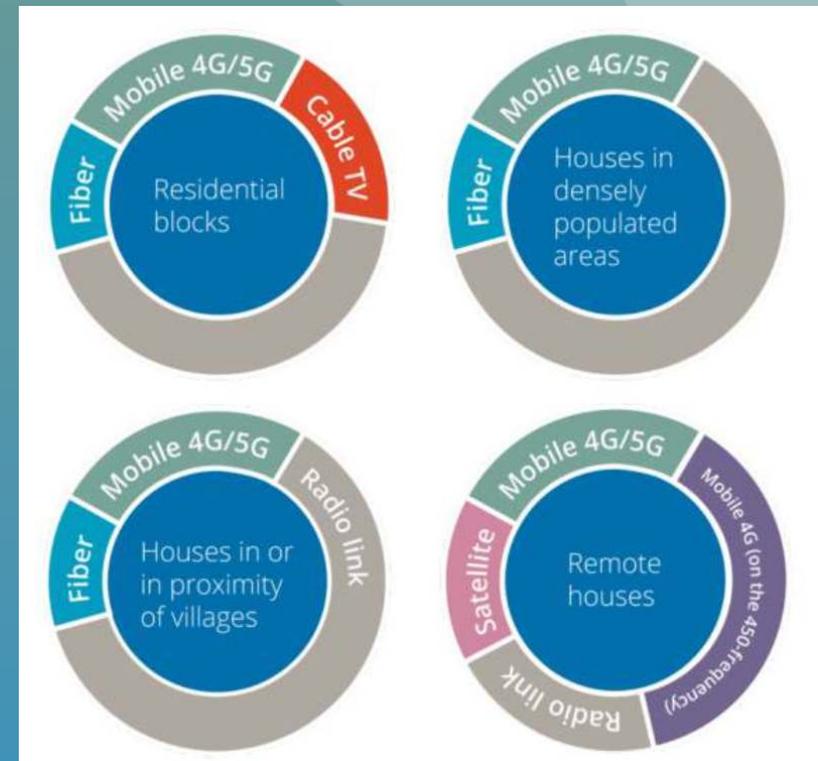Intermediate Regions
Predominantly Urban

EU Objectives

2020:
- 30 Mbps for all citizens
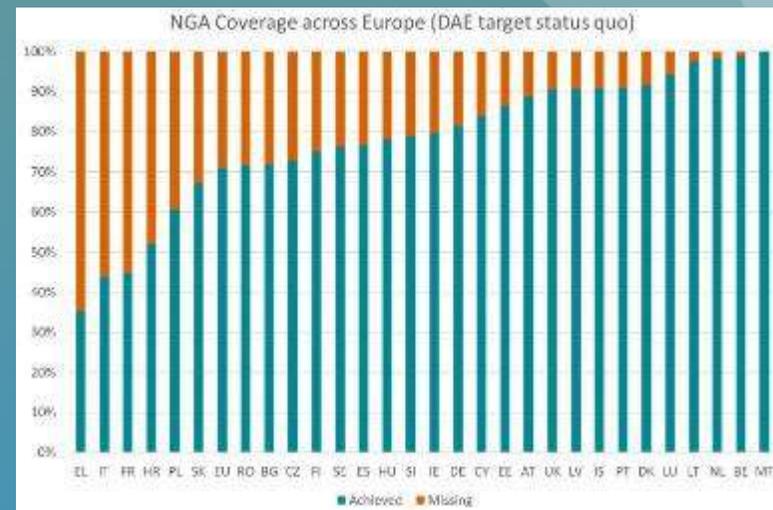- 100 Mbps for 50% households

2025:
- 1 Gbps for schools, transport hubs, main public services etc
- 100 Mbps for all households
- Uninterrupted 5G for all urban areas, major roads, railways

Source: "A Completely Connected Sweden By 2025"

Status of Digital Agenda:

- Few Member States will possibly reach their Digital Agenda targets by 2020.

- Some countries do not have a single document that can be regarded as an NBP, but all countries have an overall strategic approach for the deployment of NGA networks.

- There is no one-size-fits-all solution for broadband strategies across Europe.

- Generally, the results of the study reinforce the need to increase and incentivise investments.

Source: "Study on National Broadband Plans in the EU-28"

Policies to stimulate implementation:

- Supply Side:
  - Local loop unbundling
  - Sharing of ducts, poles and infrastructure (Cost Reduction Directive)
  - Co-investment agreements
  - Funding (eg CEF 1 & CEF 2)

- Demand Side:
  - Reduce costs and barriers to adoption
  - Increase benefits (bundling)
  - Educate (to encourage adoption)

- CERRE Recommendations:
  - Set adoption as well as coverage targets
  - Use collective purchasing programmes to stimulate participation
  - Publicly funded operators to meet adoption & deployment targets
  - Support households unable to fund a UFB connection
  - Consider decommissioning the copper network to stimulate UFB

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