



Presentation of the Workshop

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Hervé DUPUY
Deputy Head of Unit
Broadband Policy Unit (CNECT B5)
herve.dupuy@ec.europa.eu



Part 1

BACKGROUND



At the cross-road of two EU policies :

- **Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE) 2010-2020 :**
 - Over 100 actions for the Commission and Member States
 - Targets (KPI) by 2013, 2015, 2020
- **European Structural & Investment Funds (ESIF) 2014-2020 :**
 - 11 Thematic Objectives, investment priorities
 - Thematic concentration, smart specialisation strategies

Background



ICT : not just a "sector" (telecom)

> enabler for all socio-economic sectors

ICT : no longer "hardware v.s. software"

> cloud computing, mobility and ubiquity

ICT : from "nice-to-have" to "must-have"

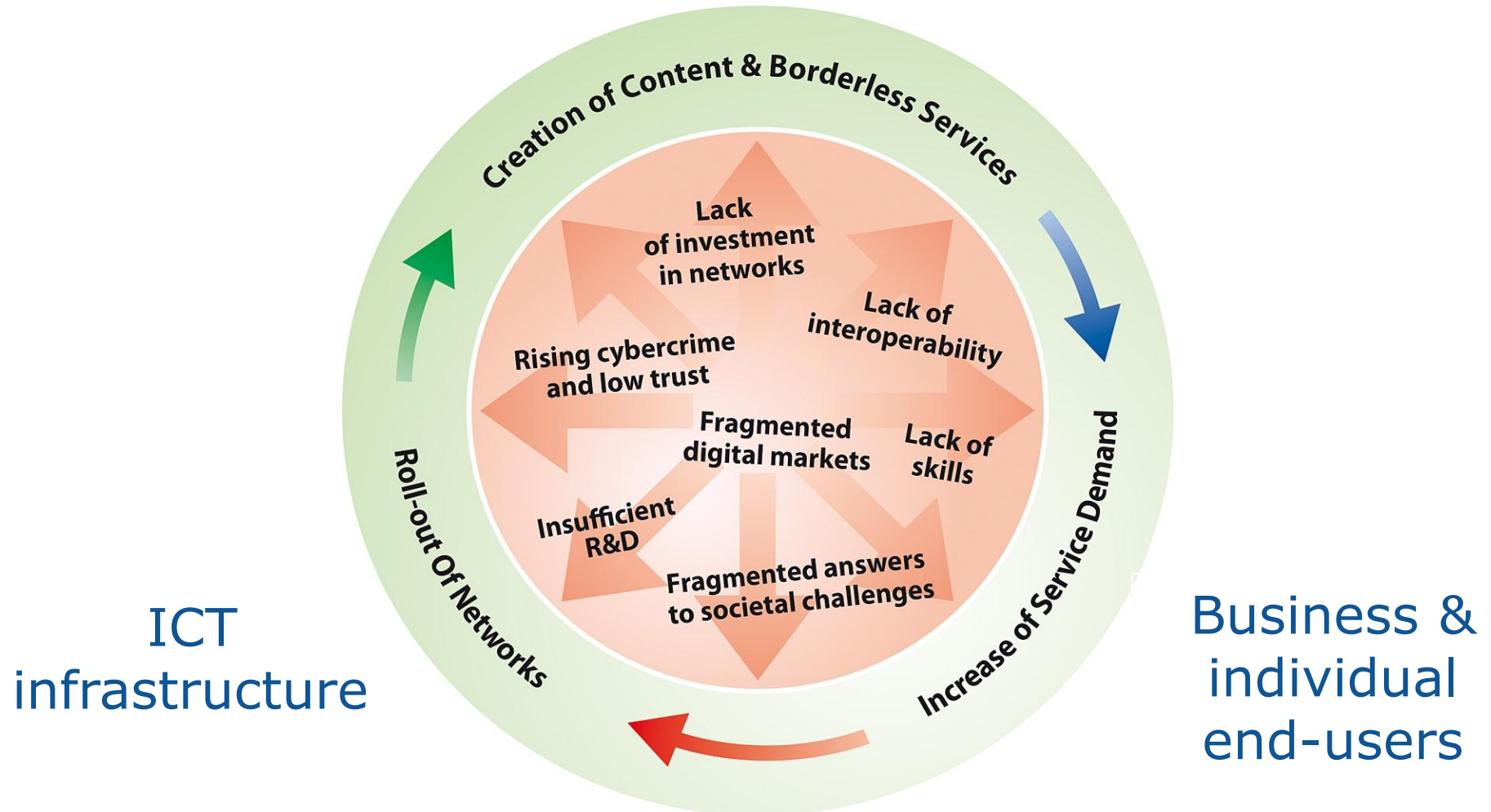
> pre-condition for productivity growth & innovation

***Convergence of ever faster networks,
ever smarter devices, ever richer contents***

The "virtuous circle" of the Digital economy



Applications & e-Services





ICT: a must for competitiveness and innovation

- 5 % of GDP but driving 20% of overall productivity growth (3.2 trillion by 2016 in G20 economies)
- Companies adopting IT based processes improve labour productivity by 5% in manufacturing and 10% in services
- SMEs grow 2 to 3 times faster when connected
- For every job lost, 2.6 new ones created

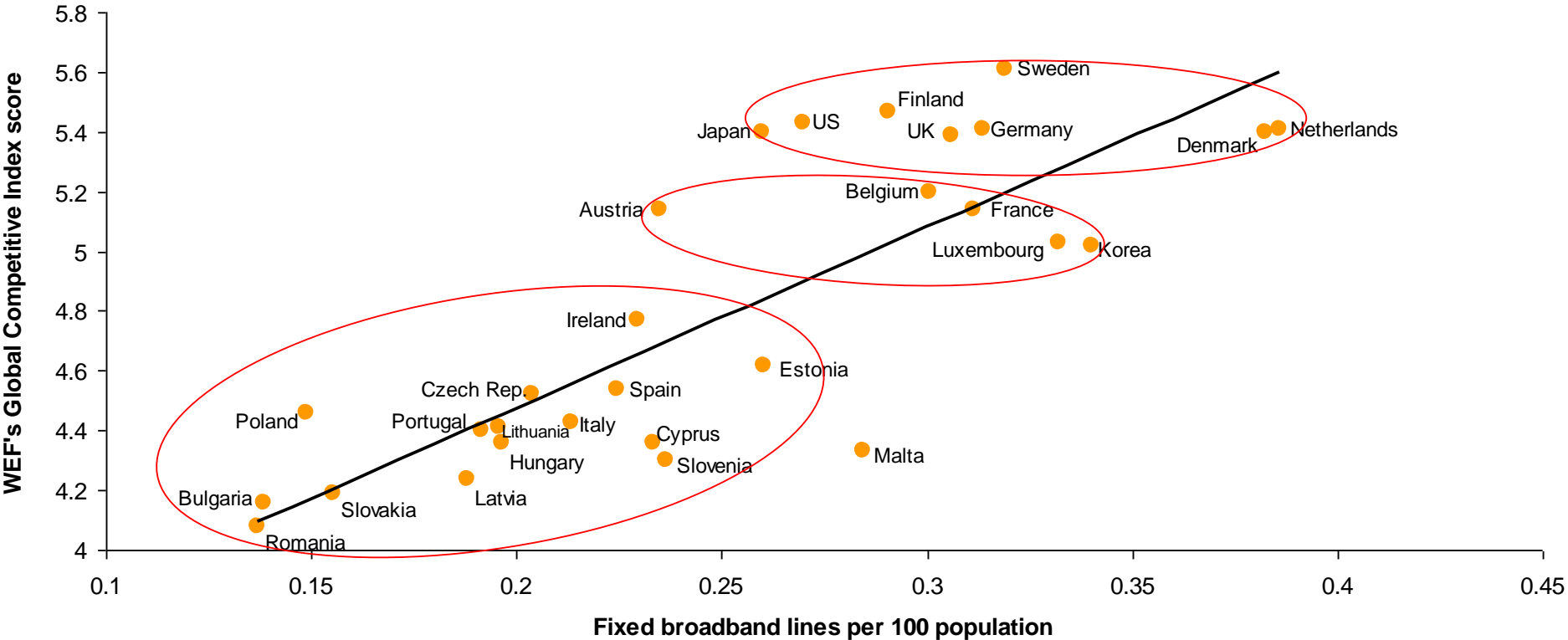
BUT

ICT full potential not yet fully exploited!

Broadband drives competitiveness



Correlation Fixed Broadband Penetration and Competitiveness



"An increase in the broadband penetration rate by 10 percentage points raises annual growth in per-capita GDP by 0.9 to 1.5 percentage points"

(Czernich et al. - CESIFO WORKING PAPER NO. 2861, Ifo Institute for Economic Research, 2009)

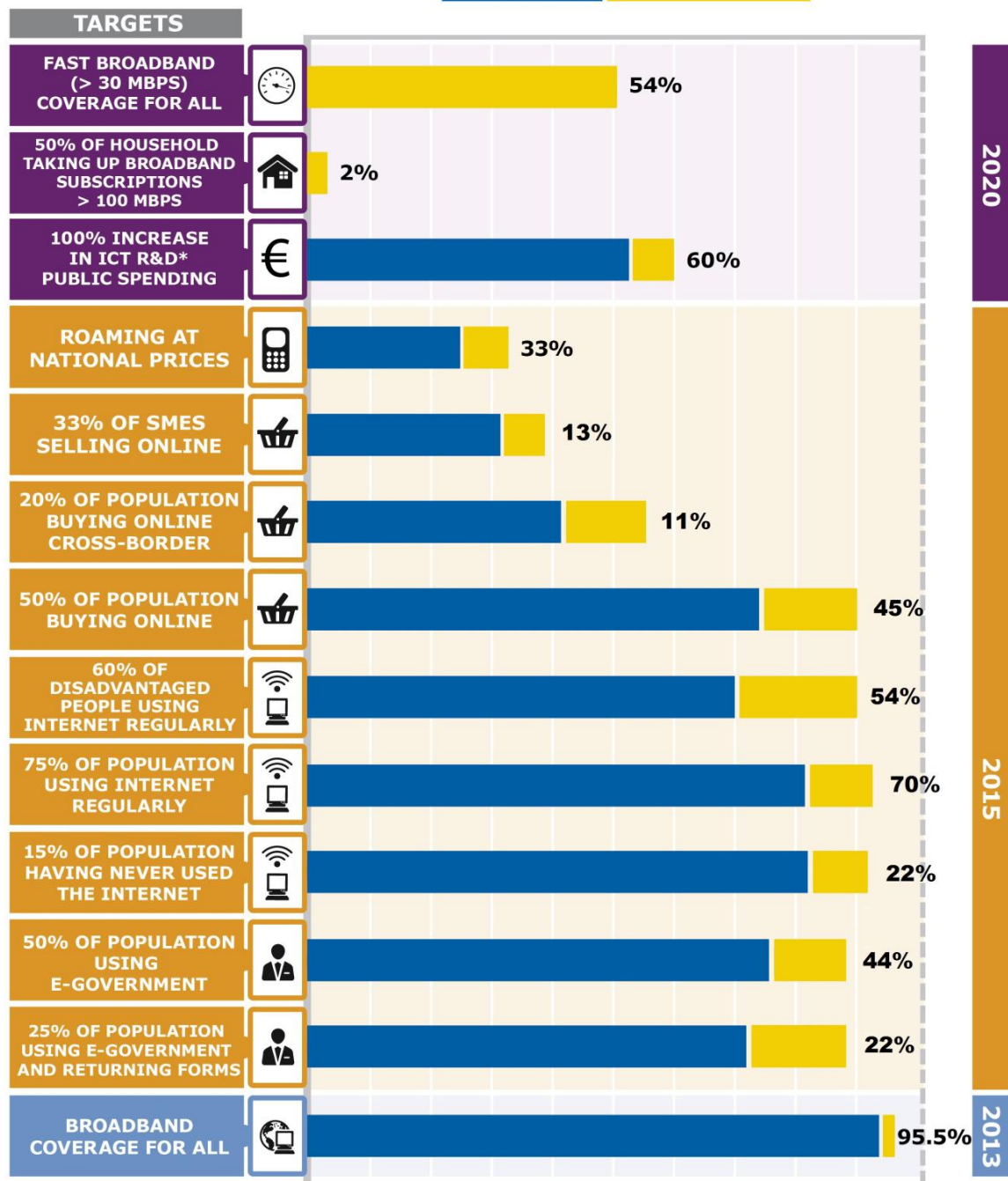
Digital Agenda Scoreboard

ESIF-relevant:

Infrastructure/net works

eServices/ applications

Take-up/ demand



2020

2015

2013



Part 2

Enhancing the ICT dimension within ESIF

ESIF Legal Framework

The new ESIF Regulations encourage the programming of ICT:

- **ICT (T02) is part of the *Thematic Concentration* (4 Thematic Objectives share 50% to 80% of ERDF)**
- **ICT infrastructures (NGN) are eligible to ERDF in all EU Regions**

However, there is strong reluctance due to

- **Past records on absorption capacity**
- **Relevance of infrastructure v.s. concentration on R&I**



Ongoing support to Regions

Cooperation Platforms

- **S3 Platform (Institute for Prospective Technological Studies, IPTS)**
<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda>
- **Virtual task Force (CNECT/REGIO/AGRI)**
<http://connected.cnect.cec.eu.int/groups/virtual-task-force-regio-connect-vtf>

Guidance

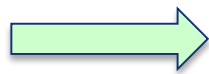
- **Digital Agenda “Toolbox”**
- **Assessment Grids : S3 for ICT, EACs**
- **Guides on Broadband Investment models, State Aids, Mapping, etc.**
- **European Broadband Portal**

Capacity Building / Technical Assistance

Two scenarios for hiring experts

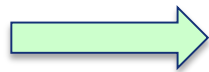
1. To help *Member States/Regions* prepare

- Partnership Agreements (PAs)
- Operational Programmes (OPs)
- Ex-Ante Conditionalities (EACs)
- Research & Innovation Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3)



missions on the ground

2. To help *DG CONNECT services* assess these programming documents



desk work ; 5-day contract



very short notice !!!

Scenarios for not hiring experts: *Conflict of Interest*

You cannot be contracted as an expert:

- If you are one of the **penholders** or **adviser** for the PA, OP or RIS3 of the Regions/Member State under examination.
- If you are **involved** in any kind of work which might prejudice your assessment.

What to assess ? - How to assess ?

If you are called upon, you may have to assess :

- **one Region** : coherence between programming documents (PA, OPs) & Ex-ante Conditionalities (EACs);
- **a group of regional OPs** : cross-checking for consistency of treatment ;
- *etc.*

Contractual **terms of reference**, in conjunction with the relevant **assessment grid(s)** and the **Digital Agenda Toolbox**.



Partnership Agreement (PA)

- A "**high level business plan**" which the MS agrees with the Commission;
- Setting the direction of the funding programmes ensuring how the funds are best deployed to support maximum impact (sustainable growth and jobs).



Operational Programme (OP)

Document written by the MS and/or Regions defining the investment of EU funds for each priority chosen and proposing concrete Measures for funding;

It includes:

- **Priorities** (axes) setting out **specific objectives**;
- **Financial appropriations** (ESI Funds + national co-financing);
- **Indicators** to assess progress (absorption, output, results);
- Description of the **Measures**: framework for the selection of operations (= projects) : main target groups, specific territories, types of beneficiaries, major projects, etc.



The Digital Agenda "Toolbox"

Designed to help regional and national authorities understand DAE's potential for digital growth.

- Links the DAE with and ESIF 2014-2020;
- Identifies common themes in developing a policy framework;
- Gives guidance on smart investment in ICT infrastructure, measures to support the development of ICT services, applications and products, and ICT up-take;
- Provides Best Practices;
- Complements RIS3 and Broadband Investment Guide.



The Digital Agenda “Toolbox”: ***Areas covered by ESIF in the 3-pillar structure :***

- **ICT Infrastructure**: Next Generation Networks, H2020 R&D/e-Infrastructure for R&D, Cloud Computing, Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) for Europe, Network and Information Security;
- **e-Services and Applications**: eGovernment, eHealth, Active and Healthy Ageing, Digitalisation of cultural heritage, language resources, intelligent transport cities, smart cities, smart grids;
- **ICT Take-up**: Web entrepreneurship to boost start-ups, Open data portals, living labs, digital skills, ICT innovation vouchers.

How to assess ?



DIGITAL AGENDA FOR EUROPE A Europe 2020 Initiative

European Commission > Digital Agenda for Europe > Our Goals > Scoreboard

- Home
- Our Goals
- Life & Work
- Funding
- Science & Technology
- Telecoms & the Internet
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Progress by country

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What to assess ?



Thematic Objectives

N°1 Research and innovation

N°2 - ICT use and quality

- ICT access

All other Thematic Objectives

Ex-ante conditionalities

**"Digital Growth"
Strategic policy framework:**

- R&I Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3)

and/or



- National/Regional Digital Agenda

Next Generation Network (NGN) Plan

Corresponding ex-ante conditionalities

Vision of convergence and digital economy



ICT Ex-Ante Conditionalities (EAC)

- They reflect existing commitments or obligations that should be met. They help ensure an effective and efficient implementation of the ESIF in a wider policy framework.
- Two EAC for Thematic Objective 2 (ICT):
 - **Digital Growth – 2.1**
 - **National Broadband plan NGA – 2.2**
- If an EAC “not met”, an *action plan* is required by 2016 – possibly with a suspension of payment?



ICT within a Research & Innovation Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3)

- 2014-2020: MS committed into focussing on fewer investment priorities;
- Develop distinctive and original areas of specialisation where "innovative" projects will complement the region's other productive assets.

Capacity, critical mass, competitive advantage



Assessment Grid

EAC 2.1 Digital Growth

(national or regional “digital agenda” or RIS3 vehicle)

Criteria include:

- An economic analysis (SWOT or similar analysis Scoreboard DAE) of ICT with stakeholder involvement
- Prioritisation of actions and available budgetary resources;
- Indicators to measure progress of interventions.
- Administrative capacity ; remedial actions
- Other criteria from the **Assessment Grid for ICT in RIS3**



Assessment Grid **EAC 2.1: NGN Plan**

(National or Regional)

Criteria include

- A plan of infrastructure investments based on an economic analysis taking account of existing private and public infrastructures and planned investments;
- Prioritisation, available budgetary resources, and investment models that should enhance competition and provide access to open, affordable, quality and future proof infrastructure and services;
- Measures to stimulate private investment.



Objectives of today's Workshop

- Sharing a common understanding of the tasks you may be called for;
- Critical assessment on the main analytical tools at your disposal:
 - Digital Agenda “Toolbox”
 - Assessment Grids for ICT in RIS3 / EAC;
- Networking, exchange of best practice.



Thank you!
Any question ?

Further reading :

<http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/connect/en/content/broadband-ict-structural-funds>

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda>