



Supporting Broadband Development in the EaP Region

EU4Digital Initiative – Broadband Strategies
State of play and plans

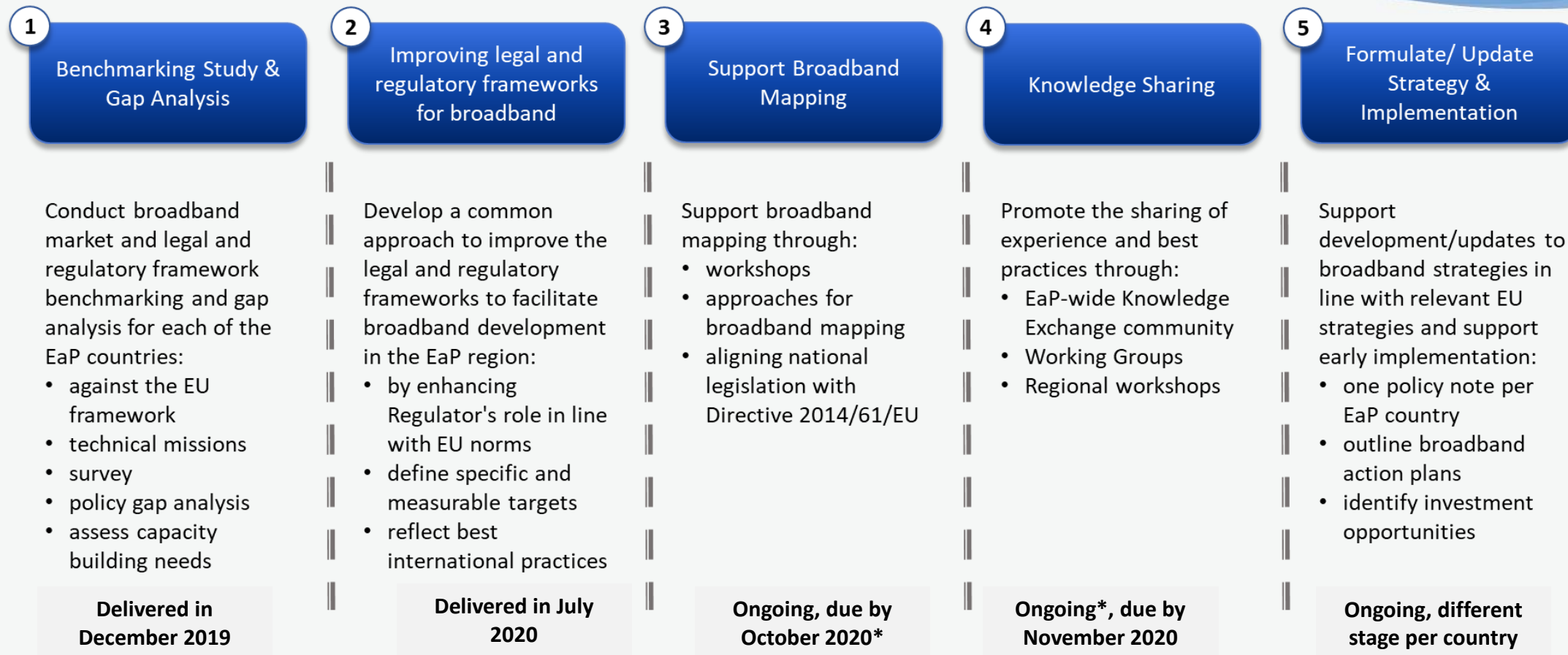
2nd Steering Committee Meeting – 5 October 2020

Overall objective

EU4Digital Broadband Strategies - Technical Assistance

Support all EaP partner countries in their development and early implementation of national broadband strategies, in line with similar EU strategies, by providing technical assistance and capacity building support.

Overview of the activities and milestones



* The team requests your assistance and input to deliver these activities on time and aligned with the country needs and priorities.

Support towards Strategy Recommendations and Early Implementation - Highlights

Highlights per Component

- The WB project within the EU4Digital initiative has been successfully amended and prolonged until the end of December 2020.
- **Report 3:** Ongoing work on broadband mapping following the kick-off event in Warsaw on 20-21 February hosted by UKE. Technical discussions by country are being currently held to identify the specific needs and focus of the recommendations which will be delivered by October 2020.
- **Report 4:** Being finalized as summary of knowledge sharing of the activities delivered during the entire project, including the main workshops/webinars delivered throughout 2019 and 2020.
- **Report 5:** Ongoing work and successful dialogues with NRAs, NPs and EU Delegations to finalize the recommendations for the update/development of National Broadband Strategies in each of the EaP countries. The activity is at different stages depending on the country's engagement – the report has already been delivered in GE and UA and will be submitted to the remaining countries between October and November 2020.

Highlights per Country

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| AM | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploratory discussions underway on design of a rural broadband connectivity program.• TA on updates of Electronic Comms law (initiated) |
| AZ | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Starting engagement with delivery of draft recommendations on broadband strategy development planned in October 2020 |
| BY | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Starting engagement with Belarus for the provision of recommendations on 5G deployment to be included in the overall Broadband Strategy for the country by October 2020 |
| GE | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Progress in design of a rural broadband connectivity program in Georgia, learning from the experience of Lithuania (expected start date January 2021) |
| MD | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continued support to the Moldovan Ministry of Economy & Infrastructure in the implementation of the national broadband plan, especially through technical assistance on the transposition of the EU broadband cost-reduction directive |
| UA | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommendations delivered to the Ministry for their National Broadband Strategy which have been taken into consideration in the development of the final version for the strategy which has been presented for public consultation |

Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Institutional complexity, requiring dialogue with multiple counterparts in each country (NP, NRA, other institutions).
- COVID-19 impacted plans for finalization of Report 2 and delivery of Report 3, requiring a shift to a fully virtual mode of operation, through online bilateral discussions. Planned site visits under Report 3 have been converted to a series of VCs.
- Lessons learned for the continuous engagement with the relevant parties:
 - Work jointly with NPs and NRAs at the national level;
 - Continue to coordinate with the EU delegations and EY at the national level and at the central level;
 - Maintain a balanced approach between producing a regionally comparable set of deliverables and adjusting to countries' shifting development priorities and timelines;
 - Continue to collaborate with the digital community at the regional level, notably the EaPeReg.
- Useful to have constant interaction and ensure clear communication, including to answer questions and clarify scope of work.

THANK YOU!