



List of areas designated white areas in the geographic segment with high population density, further activities in the testing of commercial interest in the geographic segment with low population density and making and co-financing investments in the Next-Generation Broadband Network Development Plan to 2020

1. Designation of white areas and stimulation of demand

With a view to designating white areas within geographical segments with high and low population densities in accordance with the Next-Generation Broadband Network Development Plan to 2020 (hereinafter: the NGN Development Plan 2020) the first and second rounds of testing of commercial interest were carried out in order to make further investments in the NGN Development Plan 2020 to stimulate demand for internet access services.

The first round of testing of commercial interest

On the basis of data from the NGN Development Plan 2020, 865,958 households were registered in the Republic of Slovenia in June 2015. In order to designate white areas, it is necessary to carry out the testing of commercial interest to construct an appropriate infrastructure. From the list of all households, the following households were exempt from the needs of testing:

- those in areas where the existing infrastructure already allows bandwidths of at least 100 Mbps,
- those in urban areas with more than 500 inhabitants/km² and
- those in areas that have already received funds from the ERDF and the EAFRD in the Financial Perspective 2007–2013.

In accordance with the NGN Development Plan 2020, the responsible ministry published a public call to operators to submit expressions of commercial interest for the deployment of broadband networks in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia on 20 May 2016. The call was intended for all interested network operators and network owners of electronic communications and other investors to express:

- commercial interest in deploying broadband networks with network termination points with a bandwidth of at least 100 Mbps in the geographic segment with high population density for 216,892 households and
- commercial interest in deploying broadband networks with network termination points with a bandwidth of at least 30 Mbps in the geographic segment with low population density for 25,410 households.

The deadline for the entry of investors' data into the web application was 23 June 2016. On the basis of the subsequently recorded new and modified network termination points in the Consolidated Cadastre of Public Economic Infrastructure, the responsible ministry extended the originally set deadline until 5 September 2016, when the interested investors expressed their commercial interest by entering data into the web application.

Within the specified time limit:

- 12 interested investors expressed commercial interest in the geographic segment with high population density for deploying network termination points with network termination points with a bandwidth of at least 100 Mbps per 212,688 households and
- 10 interested investors expressed commercial interest in the geographic segment with low population density for deploying network termination points with a bandwidth of at least 30 Mbps per 25,234 households.

Based on the data on the expressed commercial interest of investors, the responsible ministry made an analysis showing that:

- in the segment with high population density there are 4,204 households in white areas and
- in the segment with low population density there are 176 households in white areas.

List of white areas in the geographic segment with high population density referred to in the first round of testing commercial interest

Municipality	Settlement	Number of households
Brezovica	Brezovica pri Ljubljani	32
Brežice	Podvinje	1
Celje	Runtole	1
Celje	Zadobrova	1
Cerklje na Gorenjskem	Zgornji Brnik	3
Cerkno	Poče	1
Cerkno	Zakriž	2
Črnomelj	Črnomelj	925
Dobrna	Vrba	1
Dobrova–Polhov Gradec	Butajnova	1
Dobrova–Polhov Gradec	Setnik	1
Domžale	Depala Vas	1
Grosuplje	Predole	1
Grosuplje	Sela pri Šmarju	2
Grosuplje	Veliko Mlačevo	1
Idrija	Idrija	244
Idrija	Masore	1
Ivančna Gorica	Ambrus	3
Ivančna Gorica	Bakrc	3
Kamnik	Bela	1
Kamnik	Krivčevo	1
Kanal	Avče	2
Koper	Bertoki	13
Koper	Hrastovlje	1
Kozje	Podsreda	5
Kranj	Rakovica	1
Kranj	Zabukovje	1
Lenart	Spodnja Voličina	1
Litija	Podšentjur	2
Logatec	Logatec	1,499
Loška Dolina	Babno Polje	1
Lukovica	Učak	1
Moravske Toplice	Vučja Gomila	2
Nazarje	Rovt pod Menino	1
Nazarje	Žlabor	1
Novo Mesto	Uršna Sela	1

Piran	Seča	1
Prevalje	Šentanel	2
Puconci	Brezovci	2
Rače–Fram	Rače	15
Radeče	Svibno	2
Ribnica	Jurjevica	1
Ribnica	Kot pri Ribnici	4
Rogaška Slatina	Strmec pri Sv. Florijanu	2
Rogašovci	Sveti Jurij	3
Rogašovci	Ropoča	2
Rogašovci	Sotina	2
Rogatec	Donačka Gora	1
Rogatec	Sv. Jurij	1
Slovenska Bistrica	Cigonca	1
Sveti Andraž v Slov. Goricah	Vitomarci	2
Sveti Jurij ob Ščavnici	Sovjak	1
Šenčur	Trboje	10
Šentjur	Bukovje pri Slivnici	1
Šentjur	Hrastje	2
Šentjur	Trnovec pri Dramljah	1
Škocjan	Male Poljane	1
Škofljica	Orle	1
Škofljica	Želimlje	1
Šmarje pri Jelšah	Spodnje Selce	2
Šmartno pri Litiji	Črni Potok	3
Tolmin	Dolenja Trebuša	1
Trbovlje	Čeče - del	1
Trnovska vas	Trnovska vas	1
Trzin	Trzin	7
Vipava	Sanabor	1
Vojnik	Tomaž nad Vojnikom	3
Vojnik	Verpete	1
Vrhnika	Vrhnika	1,346
Vrhnika	Jerinov Grič	1
Vrhnika	Mizni Dol	1
Zagorje ob Savi	Borje	1
Zagorje ob Savi	Izlake	1
Zagorje ob Savi	Orehovica	1
Zagorje ob Savi	Podkum	2
Zagorje ob Savi	Ravenska Vas	4
Zagorje ob Savi	Šentgotard	1
Zreče	Boharina	1
Zreče	Loška Gora pri Zrečah	6
Žalec	Kasaze	1
	TOTAL:	4,204

The second round of testing commercial interest

In terms of the public interest in providing advanced broadband infrastructure for all households in the Republic of Slovenia and in accordance with Chapter 9 of the NGN Development Plan 2020, in which the shifting of the boundary between the two geographic segments with high and low population densities in the call to submit expressions of commercial interest is foreseen, the responsible ministry repeated, i.e. carried out the second round of, the testing of commercial interest for the deployment of network termination points on 21 October 2016 in the geographic segment with low density population for 25,410 households, this time for a speed of at least 100 Mbps. The responsible ministry published a call to submit expressions of commercial interest (the second round). The interested investors who in the first round expressed their commercial interest in the geographic segment with low population density for a bandwidth of at least 30 Mbps were additionally informed that the second round of testing commercial interest in the geographic segment with low population density for deploying network termination points with a bandwidth of at least 100 Mbps would be carried out.

In both geographic segments (i.e. densely and sparsely populated), the testing of commercial interest will be carried out for a speed of 100 Mbps.

The deadline for the entry of data of interested investors in the website application was 11 November 2016; at the request of one of the interested investors, the deadline was extended until 18 November 2016.

In the geographic segment with low population density, due to the topological features and the wide dispersion between individual households, the deployment of broadband infrastructure to households is more demanding and entails higher costs of broadband network deployment; in this geographical segment, therefore, co-financing from public funds up to a maximum of EUR 1,200 per individual connection under the Operational Programme for the Implementation of the European Cohesion Policy 2014–2020 and the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 in settlements with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants is foreseen.

Stimulating demand

In settlements with a population density of more than 500 inhabitants/km², the construction of infrastructure will also be accelerated, enabling broadband connections with a bandwidth of at least 100 Mbps on the basis of the commercial interest of operators through the public tender for the stimulation of demand for internet access services.

1. Prioritisation of the deployment of broadband networks financed from private and public funds

- deployment of broadband networks from private funds under the first and second rounds of testing commercial interest

Private investors who submitted expressions of commercial interest in the first round will, no later than six months after the completed process of submission of expressions of commercial interest, sign an agreement on the implementation of the commercial interest in the following three years in accordance with the NGN Development Plan 2020. The interested investors who submitted expressions of commercial interest in the first round for 212,688 households are expected to complete the planned investments by 30 September 2019. The interested investors who will submit expressions of commercial interest in the second round are expected to complete the planned investments by the end of 2020.

- deployment of open broadband networks financed with public funds in white areas from the first and second rounds of testing commercial interest

The two public tenders for co-financing the deployment of the next-generation broadband networks with public funds (the public tender for funds from OP ERDF – GOŠO 3 (Deployment of Open

Broadband Networks) and the public tender for funds from the RDP – GOŠO MAFF (Deployment of Open Broadband Networks, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food) will be published for white areas designated in the first (4,204 households) and second rounds of testing commercial interest. The competent ministries plan to publish two public invitations to tender (GOŠO 3 and GOŠO MAFF) for all white areas from the first and second rounds of testing commercial interest in the entire territory of the Republic of Slovenia. White areas in all 12 statistical regions will be included (Pomurska, Podravska, Koroška, Savinjska, Zasavska, Posavska, South-East Slovenia, Central Slovenia, Gorenjska, Notranjsko-kraška, Goriška and Obalno-kraška). Based on the final list of households in white areas, the ministries responsible will define the delineation of the actions and areas for co-financing with the planned public funds.

- **stimulation of demand**

A public tender for stimulating demand for internet access services will be carried out on the basis of which a higher penetration of broadband connections will be achieved there where adequate infrastructure is available, and at the same time, the construction of broadband infrastructure for speeds of 100 Mbps with private funds will be encouraged there where appropriate infrastructure does not yet exist.

- **deployment of broadband networks using private funds in settlements with more than 500 inhabitants/km²**

In settlements with a population density of more than 500 inhabitants/km², investors will, on the basis of the commercial interest, deploy broadband infrastructure with network termination points with a bandwidth of at least 100 Mbps based on private funding sources. The deployment will be further stimulated through a public tender for stimulating demand for the internet access services, which will enable the investors to have a greater penetration of internet access connections on the basis of the deployed broadband infrastructure.

2. Timetable for further activities in the deployment of broadband networks

- data analysis of the second round of testing commercial interest, the results of the agreement on the overlapping commercial interest, approval of an expression of commercial interest and drawing up the final list of white areas in the geographic segment with low population density by 15 December 2016;
- fulfilment of ex ante conditionalities for drawing structural funds from the Operational Programme for the Implementation of the European Cohesion Policy and the Rural Development Programme by 31 December 2016;
- preparation of a single state aid scheme by 31 March 2017;
- preparation of the public tenders GOŠO 3 and GOŠO MAFF by 31 May 2017;
- publication of the public tenders GOŠO 3 and GOŠO MAFF by 31 May 2017;
- preparation of the public invitation to tender for stimulating demand throughout Slovenia by 31 May 2017;
- publication of the public invitation to tender for stimulating demand throughout Slovenia by 31 May 2017;
- conclusion of contracts on co-financing the stimulation of demand throughout Slovenia by 31 July 2017;
- implementation of the subject of the public tender for stimulating demand throughout Slovenia by 31 December 2017;
- time limit for the submission of projects and applications under the public tenders GOŠO 3 and GOŠO MAFF: by 30 November 2017;
- conclusion of contracts for co-financing projects for the deployment of next-generation open broadband networks under the public tenders GOŠO 3 and GOŠO MAFF by 31 December 2017;

- deployment of open broadband networks financed from private funds on the basis of testing commercial interest of the first and second rounds is expected to be realised by 30 September 2019;
- implementation of projects under the public tenders GOŠO 3 and GOŠO MAFF: 24 months to 31 December 2019;
- deployment of open broadband networks financed from private funds on the basis of testing commercial interest of the first and second round is expected to be realised by 31 December 2020;

3. Investments planned for the attainment of the 2020 targets

White areas in the geographic segment with high density population (based on the first round of testing commercial interest) – 4,204 households
Co-financing per connection – EUR 1,000
Total (geographic segment with high density population) = EUR 4,204,000

Potential white areas in the geographic segment with low population density (based on the first round of testing commercial interest) – up to a maximum of 25,410 households
Co-financing per connection – EUR 1,200
Total (geographic segment with low population density) = maximum EUR 30,492,000

Stimulating demand in the entire territory of Slovenia
Total (for the entire territory of Slovenia) = up to a maximum of EUR 2,140,000

Assessment of the expected co-financing	
Projects in white areas up to a maximum of	EUR 34,696,000
Stimulating demand up to a maximum of	EUR 2,140,000
TOTAL	EUR 36,836,000

Under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) within the framework of Priority Axis 2 – Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, Information and Communications Technology and the use and quality of the same and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) in the measure under Focus Area 6C - Enhancing the accessibility, use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas, EUR 72,500,00 are earmarked for this purpose.

Procedures of testing commercial interest, their analyses and making up lists of households in the white areas in the phase of fulfilment of ex ante conditionalities are carried out at the same time for co-financing from both funds (ERDF and EAFRD).

After the completed second round of testing commercial interest, the delineation of actions and consequently the areas for co-financing, both public tenders (GOŠO 3 and GOŠO MAFF) will be defined on the basis of the lists of households in white areas and in accordance with the conditions of co-financing of the ERDF and EAFRD.

On the basis of the planned funding, the attainment of the objectives of the NGN Development Plan 2020 will be ensured.