

Recovery package and EAFRD support for broadband in rural areas



Consistency of rural
development - DG AGRI



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EU RD policy for ICT in rural areas

- **Broadband for all – Europe 2020, EERP, Lisbon agenda**

2009 MS agreement:

100% coverage by 2010-2013

2020 Digital agenda:

basic broadband by 2013 and ultra-fast broadband by 2020, access and take-up

- **Strategic guidelines for rural development 2007-2013**

3 recognised areas for ICT intervention:

Agri-food chain, rural tourism and internet in rural areas

Internet: One of the major driving factors of economic growth

- **Rural development programmes 2007-2013**

(ICT situation in rural areas in 2009)

Low to average levels of usage and coverage with broadband in rural areas [COM(2009) 103]

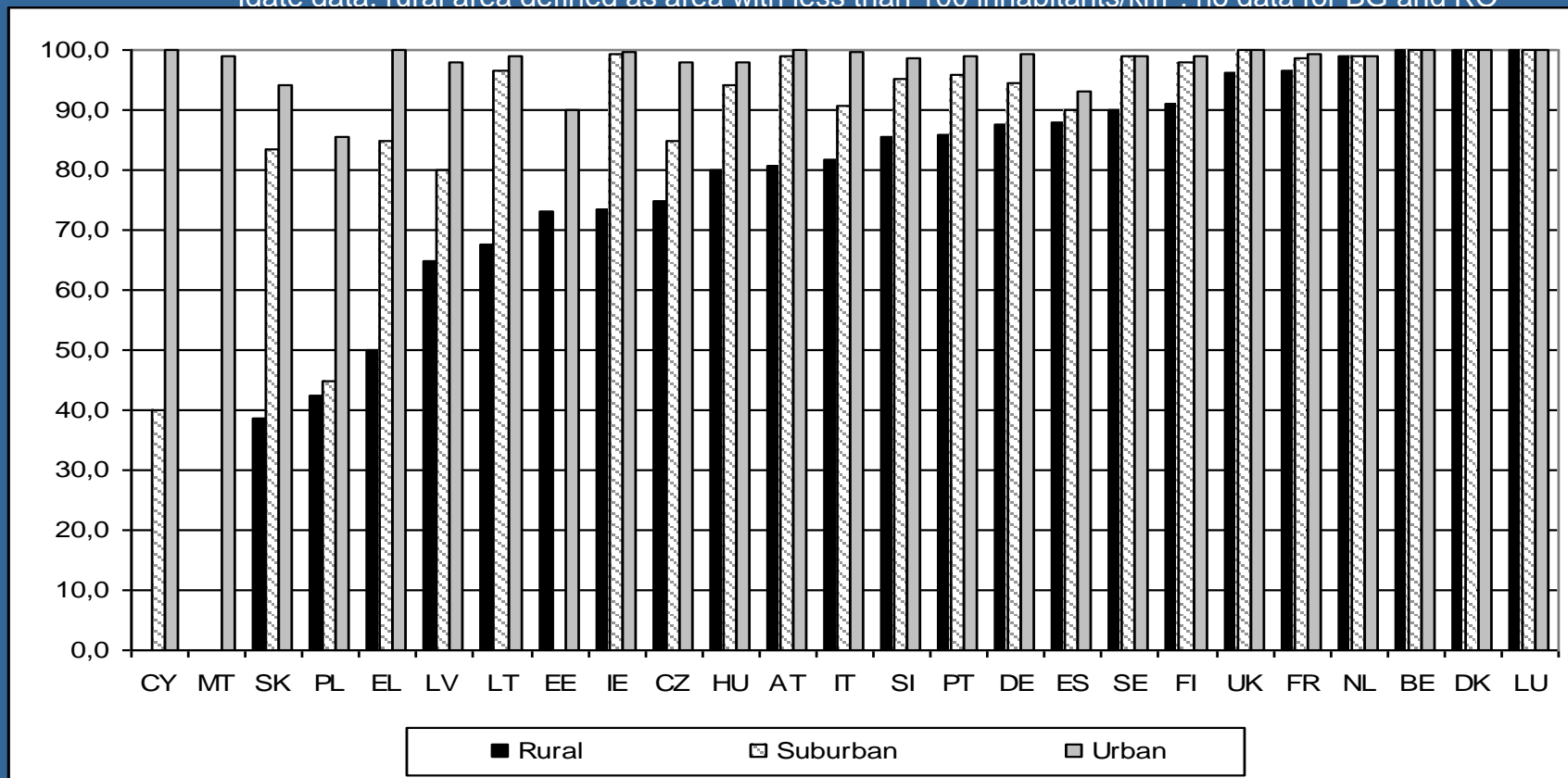


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DSL coverage in different areas in the EU27, % of total territory with DSL coverage, Dec 2007

* Idate data: rural area defined as area with less than 100 inhabitants/km²: no data for BG and RO



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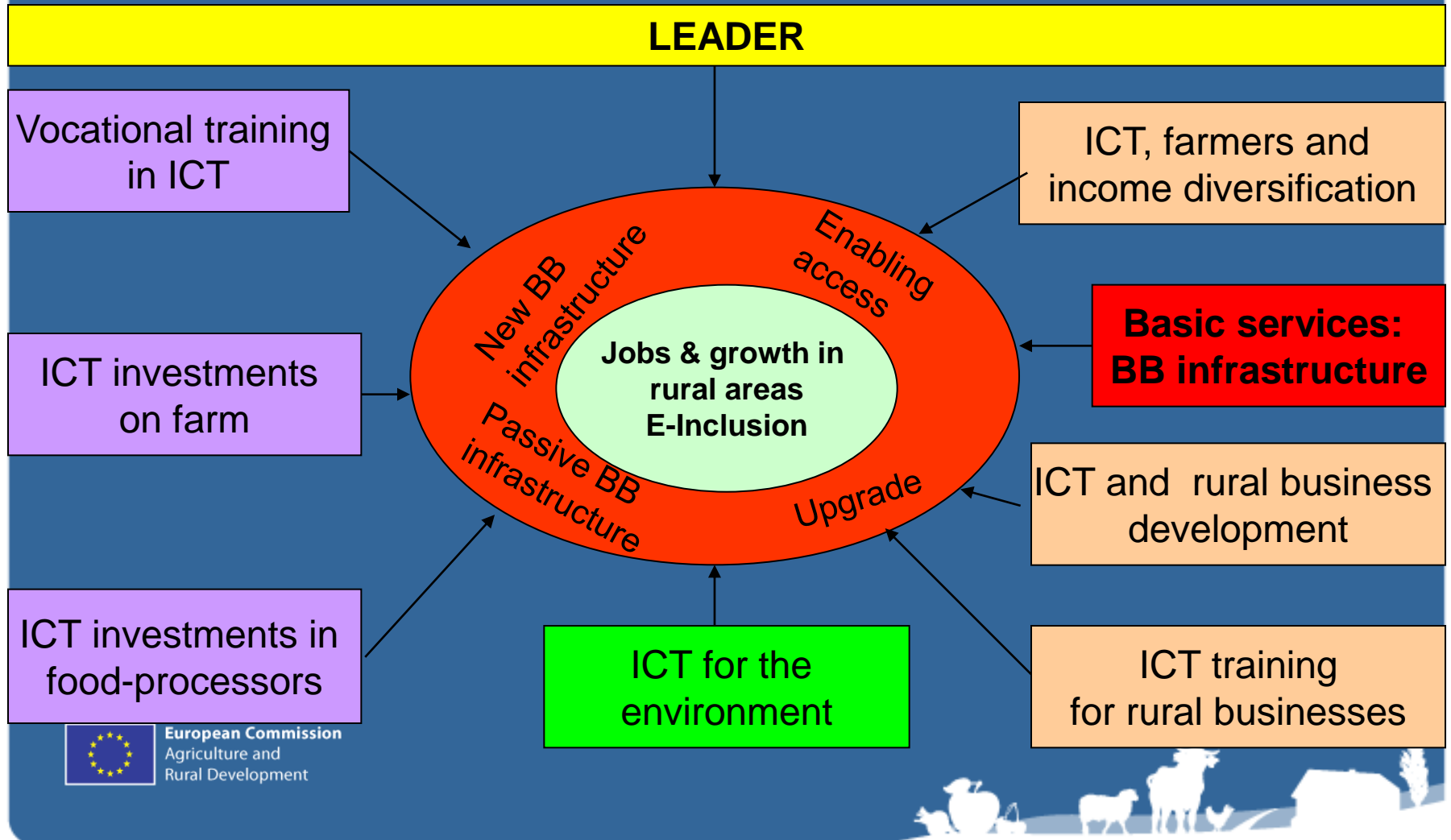


Priorities for ICT development in rural areas

- **Creation of new or passive broadband infrastructure**
Re-enforced by the Recovery Package
- **Upgrade of existing infrastructure and enabling of access to broadband infrastructure**
Re-enforced by the Recovery Package
- **Development of e-services and relevant on-line content**
- **Technological progress and investments in agriculture, agri-food and forestry**
- **Demand stimulation measures**
Development and availability of public services such as e-government, e-health, e-learning, e-skills, community applications
Business needs versus Population needs – delivery of “packages” such as connection & specific applications ↔ training



EU Rural Development Policy (EAFRD) 2007-2013: Targeting ICT development



What do we support in practice?

(examples from rural development programmes)

Basic services & infrastructure

Services

- ✓ **Centres for ICT based services** (medical care, business support, public services, etc.)
- ✓ **Mobile ICT centres**
- ✓ **E-services** (e-commerce, e-government, etc.)
- ✓ **Development of ICT tools and web-portals**
- ✓ **Business co-operation in rural areas using telematic connections**
- ✓ **IT equipment** (health-care, schools, etc.)
- ✓ **Security, transport by calls, tele-working**
- ✓ **Setting-up of electronic consultation systems**

Infrastructure

- ✓ **Creation of new broadband infrastructure**
- ✓ **Laying down passive broadband infrastructure**
- ✓ **Upgrade of existing broadband infrastructure**
- ✓ **Enabling access to broadband**

Re-enforced with the Recovery Package



What do we support in practice?

(examples from rural development programmes)

Business creation & development

Farm diversification & rural tourism

- ✓ **New technologies for bringing the producer and consumer closer**, incl. e-booking, marketing, tourism services, etc.
- ✓ **Assistance in ICT initiatives**
- ✓ **Networking** (incl. of tourism actors)
- ✓ **Provision of various ICT services** (by farmers)
- ✓ **Tourist information centres**
- ✓ **Multimedia and IT services for promotion of rural tourism**

Creation of micro-enterprises & business development

- ✓ **ICT based services**
- ✓ **New technologies for bringing the producer and consumer closer**, incl. web-portals
- ✓ **Communication points**
- ✓ **Cooperation networking**
- ✓ **Local business ICT capacity**
- ✓ **Micro-businesses in ICT training**
- ✓ **Development of mobile solutions**
- ✓ **Services for connecting and providing internet**



What do we support in practice?

(examples from rural development programmes)

Human capital upgrade and e-skills

Vocational training
in ICT for farmers,
foresters & food processors

- ✓ Professional training in ICT and computer skills
- ✓ E-learning
- ✓ Web-portals and web-tools
- ✓ Information activities using ICT
- ✓ Data processing
- ✓ Establishment and management of ICT resources in farms
- ✓ Networking through interactive use of ICT
- ✓ Life-long learning, etc.

Vocational training in ICT
for rural population

- ✓ Training in ICT and computer skills
- ✓ E-learning
- ✓ Dissemination of information using ICT
- ✓ Distance learning
- ✓ Mobile training solutions, etc.



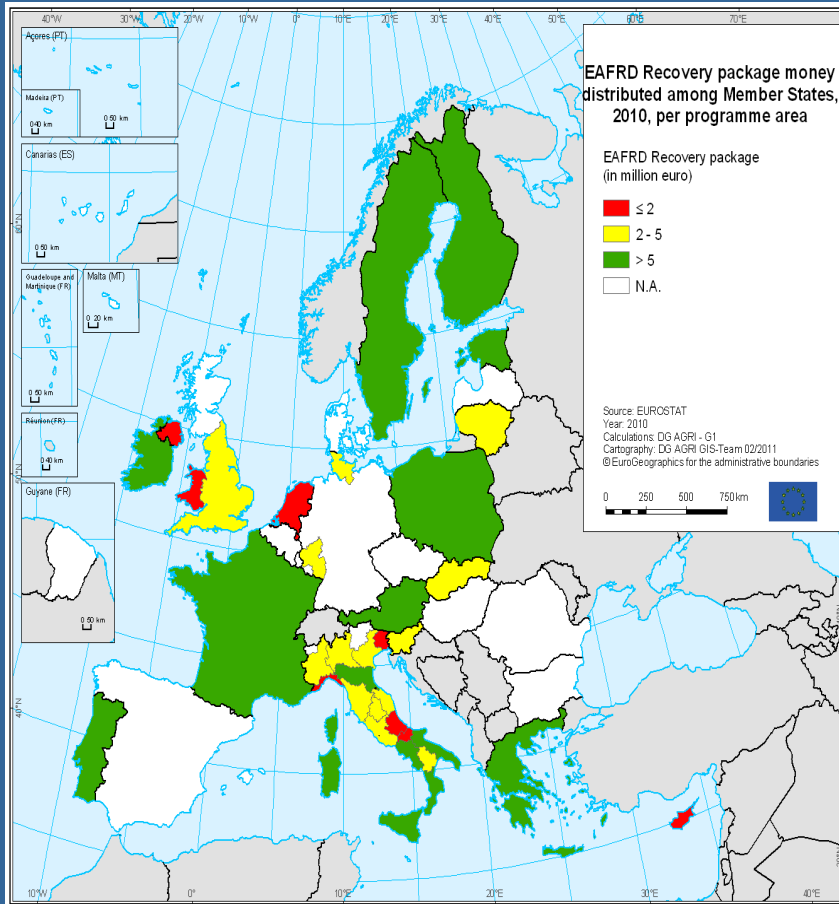
The EU Recovery package for broadband



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EAFRD Recovery package funds for broadband in rural areas



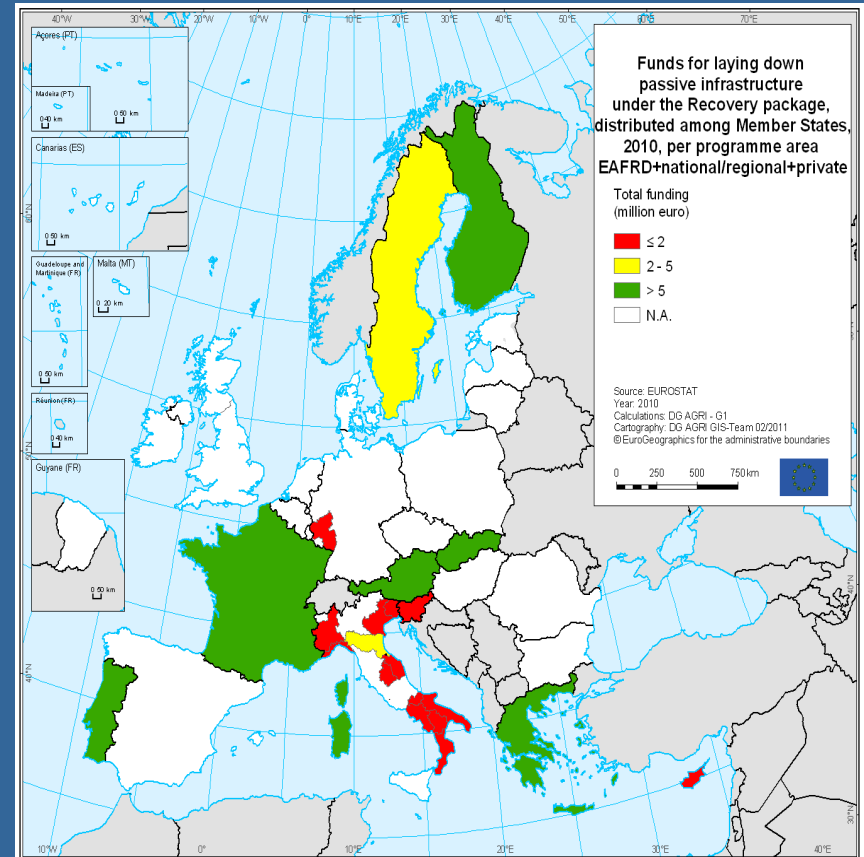
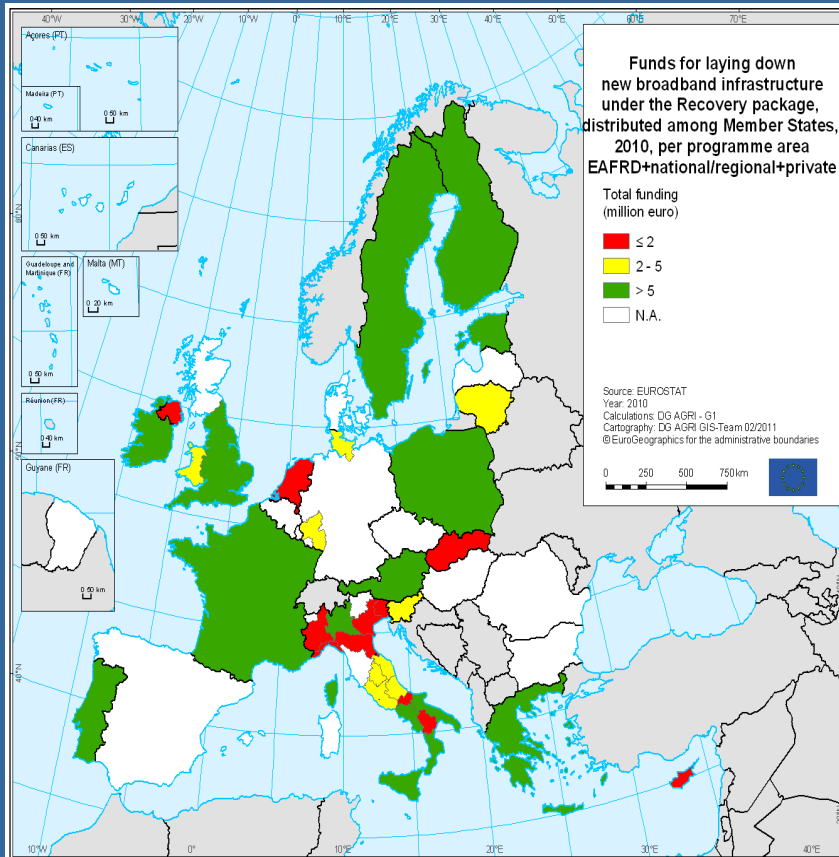
- **EAFRD: EUR 360 million**
- **3 types of investments**
- **17 Member States**
- **37 Rural Development Programs**
- **Re-programming in 2009/2010**
- **Total expend.: EUR 688 million**
 - New broadband: €383.4 million
 - Upgrade & access: €175.5 million
 - Passive: €129.1 million
- **Implementation: ongoing (different phases)**



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Total funds for broadband in rural areas (under the EERP) per type of operation

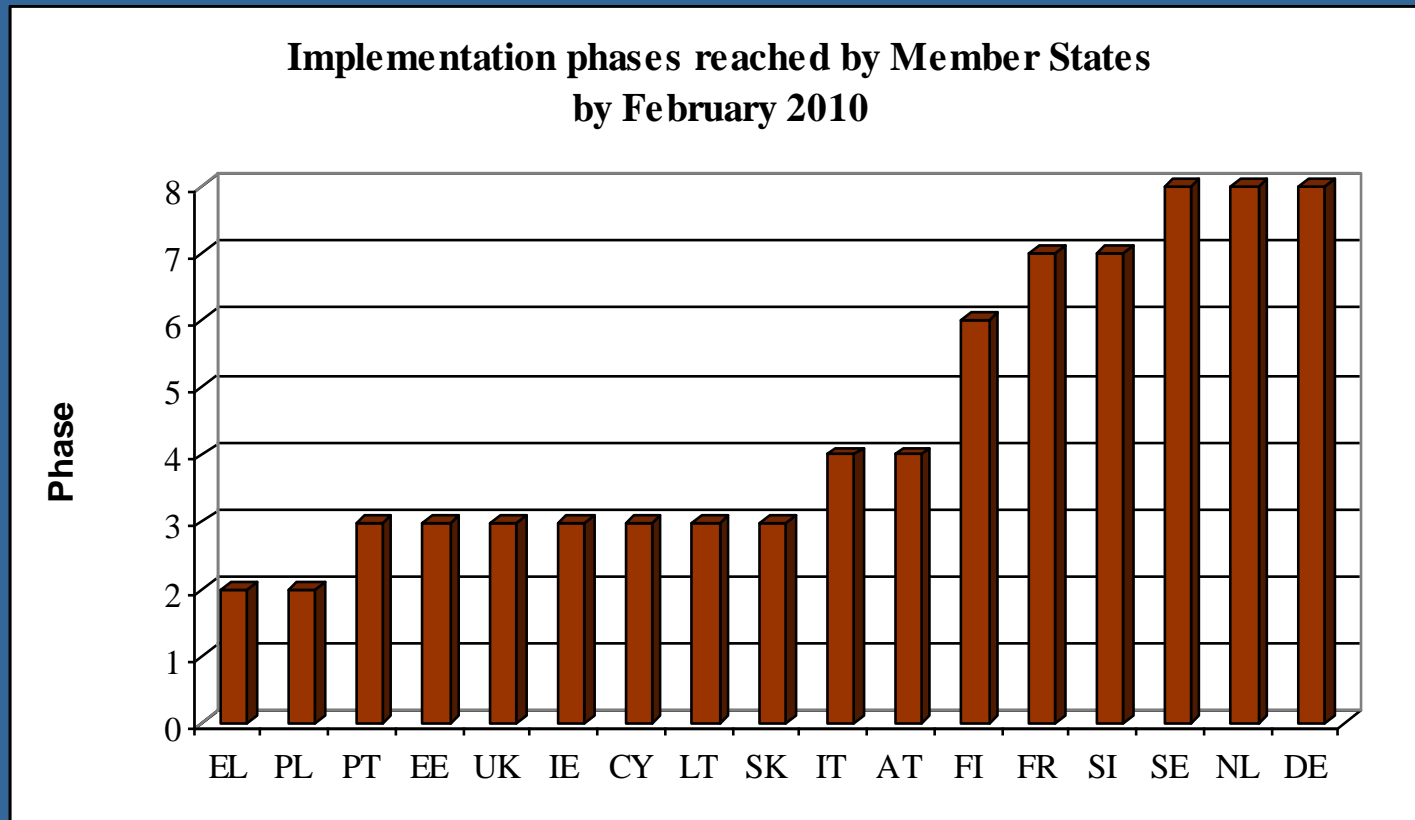


Phases of the EERP implementation process

	<u>Steps</u>	<u>Year</u>
1)	Re-programming and injection of the EERP money	2009-2010
2)	New state-aid approvals, but also: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Usage of existing state-aid schemes– Altmark judgement of Court of Justice (2003)	2010
3)	Preparatory work in the Member States, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Preparation of national legislation– Feasibility studies	2009-2011
4)	Launch of call for tender and submission process	2009-2011
5)	Evaluation of received applications <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Additional re-programming	2010-2011
6)	Pilot projects	2010
7)	Approval of projects and contracts' awarding	2010-2011
8)	On the ground implementation	2010-2012



Implementation phases reached by MS by February 2011



EERP for broadband - Implementation results so far

- Approved projects : 184
- Total approved EERP funding €45.1 million
- Acting MS implementing projects Sweden, Germany, Netherlands
- Call for tenders/approved projects Finland, France, Austria, Slovenia, Italy
- Soon launching call for tenders Estonia
- Preparatory work Lithuania, Slovakia, Cyprus, Ireland, UK, Portugal
- State-aid procedures Greece, Poland
- Feasibility studies (outside EERP) Bulgaria



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Main policy messages to Member States

- **Accelerate spending already in the first half of 2011**
- **Clear pending state-aid schemes as soon as possible and start acting**
- **Co-operation with ERDF Managing Authorities in a preparatory phase**
- **Regular monitoring and reporting must be in place**
- **Continue work, also outside the EERP in view of contributing to the Digital agenda**
- **Strong need for re-enforcement of the training measures and priorities to be given to spending for ICT training for farmers, food-industry and forestry managers, rural economic actors**



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