

**Invitation to participate in the  
Virtual workshop regarding the “BEREC Report to enable  
comparable national broadband coverage indicators  
throughout Europe”**

**Tuesday, 12th October 2021, 14:00 – 16:00 CET**

*This is an invitation for operators and the main operators’ associations. Please extend the invitation to any operators within the association that might be interested to attend and take part in the debates.*

*Please note that the workshop is open to all stakeholders’ participation.*

### **About the BEREC Report**

The BEREC Report aims at analysing the national reporting of coverage data which nurtures the European Commission’s periodical Broadband Coverage Reports and which is also showcased in the annual European Commission’s Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI<sup>1</sup>) Reports, particularly in their connectivity dimension. The report focuses on the issues faced with the collection, processing and aggregation of the coverage data to NUTS 3 and country level and aims at contributing to render the national broadband coverage data more comparable throughout Europe. The BEREC Report will provide a series of recommendations on the data retrieval and processing by national public authorities and views for future action to be considered by the EC.

In 2020 BEREC approved the “BEREC Guidelines on Geographical surveys of network deployments”<sup>2</sup>, which detail the information that NRAs and/or OCAs would need to provide for in order to determine a consistent implementation of Article 22 of the EECC, and, in particular, to reflect the geographical reach and performance of electronic communications networks capable of delivering broadband.

Common definitions and granular data as provided by the BEREC Guidelines on Article 22 EECC will certainly improve the comparability of broadband coverage information across Europe in the future, yet, for the time being, not all of the countries have granular and detailed data as that provided for in the BEREC Guidelines. Moreover, the BEREC Guidelines do not analyse in depth the issues of data aggregation and the potential disparities and challenges that accrue when reporting broadband coverage data to the European Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/desi>

The connectivity dimension of the DESI refers to fixed broadband (take-up and coverage), mobile broadband (take-up and coverage) and broadband prices.

<sup>2</sup>See

[https://berec.europa.eu/eng/document\\_register/subject\\_matter/berec/regulatory\\_best\\_practices/guidelines/9027-berec-guidelines-to-assist-nras-on-the-consistent-application-of-geographical-surveys-of-network-deployments](https://berec.europa.eu/eng/document_register/subject_matter/berec/regulatory_best_practices/guidelines/9027-berec-guidelines-to-assist-nras-on-the-consistent-application-of-geographical-surveys-of-network-deployments)

## Why participate in the virtual workshop?

The intervention of stakeholders is very important for BEREC, in order to gather their views given their expertise in broadband coverage estimation, the fact that they are also users of the European broadband coverage indicators and, most of all, due to the fact that the operators are typically the primary source of raw coverage data and, in some instances, a direct source of information for the European Commission's NUTS 3 and national coverage figures. Therefore, BEREC considers that an open, transparent stakeholder involvement is needed for the benefit and efficacy of any upcoming recommendations that BEREC may consider.

In particular, BEREC is looking for insights regarding the following aspects:

- 1) Usefulness, completeness and comparability of broadband coverage indicators;
- 2) What should be the role of operators in providing coverage data to the EC?
- 3) Relevant definitions in the context of reporting of national or aggregate figures for broadband coverage (premises versus homes passed, for example). The operators' perspective on the possibilities of identifying coverage by homes, or distinguishing between residential and business premises;
- 4) Perspectives on the consideration of the concept of "rural" in the context of coverage data - appropriate and manageable definitions for rural;
- 5) Data aggregation issues – problems and solutions;
- 6) Thoughts on 5G mapping – what kind of broadband coverage maps would be needed, what kind of national/aggregate information would be suitable? Challenges encountered and future perspectives.

After considering the workshop outcome, BEREC will prepare the final "BEREC Report to enable comparable national broadband coverage indicators throughout Europe".

## Practical information

This is a virtual event and connection details will be circulated beforehand to those wanting to attend, following the successful completion of the registration process. Please register by **6<sup>th</sup> of October at the very latest** by the following link: [https://berec.europa.eu/eng/events/berec\\_events\\_2021/288-berec-workshop-on-the-berec-report-to-enable-comparable-national-broadband-coverage-indicators-throughout-europe](https://berec.europa.eu/eng/events/berec_events_2021/288-berec-workshop-on-the-berec-report-to-enable-comparable-national-broadband-coverage-indicators-throughout-europe)

Connection details, together with the final agenda will be sent to registered participants prior to the event.

We are at your disposal should you have any further inquiries.

We look forward to seeing you at the Workshop.

Best regards,

*Begoña Garcia-Mariñoso and Iulia Zaim-Grigore (Co-Chairs of the BEREC Statistics and Indicators Working Group)*

## **DRAFT AGENDA**

# **Virtual workshop on “BEREC Report to enable comparable national broadband coverage indicators throughout Europe”**

12<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 14:00-16:00 CET

### **Virtual meeting**

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|-------------|--|
| 13:00-13:30 | Opening of the meeting room for log in.  |
| 14:00-14:10 | Welcome words (BEREC Chair)  |
| 14:10-14:20 | Tour de table (S&I WG co-chairs)   |
| 14:20-14:30 | Introduction regarding the work in progress within BEREC on broadband coverage indicators (S&I WG co-chairs) |
| 14:30-14:40 | European Commission intervention (TBC)   |
| 14:40-15:20 | Round-table presentations (10 minutes each association/participant)  |
| 15:20-15:40 | Questions & Answers  |
| 15:40-15:50 | Concluding remarks (5 minutes for each association)  |
| 15:50-16:00 | Concluding remarks (S&I WG co-chairs) and AOB  |