



EUROCITIES is the mayor network of European cities. The network brings together more than 120 large cities in some 32 European countries. The EUROCITIES Broadband Manifesto is developed within the Knowledge Society Forum - TeleCities and actively contributes to implementation of the i2010 agenda, ensuring the deployment of broadband and ICT in cities.

EUROCITIES embraces high speed secure networks as an engine for jobs & growth contributing to economic, social and urban development. Members share know-how on proven models of broadband deployment and stimulate the development of broadband services. Based on practical experience and a coherent vision, the cities participating in EUROCITIES with this manifesto present ten building blocks for a broadband policy.

- 1 No knowledge society without broadband and broadband services**
EUROCITIES underlines the importance to cities of high speed and secure networks. Broadband networks make cities more attractive as places to live, play and work. Broadband is not only a precondition for the deployment of ICTs, it also boosts the development of the urban knowledge economy, connecting all citizens in the community to a high quality infrastructure and thus preventing a 'digital divide'.
- 2 No broadband services without fibre optics**
Fibre optics is the only future-proof infrastructure. Investing in other permanent infrastructure will only yield short term results, will be less effective and may slow down innovation. EUROCITIES regards wireless broadband infrastructures as a useful addition, especially for mobile applications or applications in the public areas.
- 3 Independent fibre optic networks**
Maximum access to fibre optic networks leads to social gains. Such networks should operate completely independently from the services offered in order to ensure open access for all. EUROCITIES supports the multi-layered model, which has been used in the liberalisation of the energy market. Broadband infrastructures should be open, affordable and widely accessible.
- 4 A fibre optics monopoly? Naturally!**
The "passive" fibre optic infrastructure is a natural monopoly. It is a network infrastructure comparable to roads, sewers, and energy and therefore requires large one-off investment. Competition on this asset does not make economic sense, yet efficient network infrastructures are essential for society to function.
- 5 A market system, subject to...**
The benefits of free market will not be provided by monopolies. Regulation can be used to correct earlier arrangements. EUROCITIES believes that an open and accessible "passive" layer of infrastructure would guarantee competition in the service layer. Finance, particularly for the "backbone" network, through local, national and European public funds, should be allowed in the same way as for (national) roads and highways or other basic infrastructures.
- 6 Make room for local initiatives**
An open infrastructure creates a market whereby local entrepreneurs can offer their services and stimulate the local economy. The services themselves will lead to improvements in community and social life. The success of local bundling of demand underlines the need for such an infrastructure. Businesses and public sector should cooperate in local "smart" partnerships and funding programmes need to cater for such initiatives.
- 7 Connect the dots now**
Trans-national Interconnected Open Broadband networks, based upon standard technology and regulatory frameworks, provide the critical mass needed to deploy services throughout the European Union. It is expected that by 2008 a large number of households will need the symmetrical connections that only fibre optics can provide. It takes five to eight years to complete large infrastructural projects. Time is therefore of the essence!
- 8 Platform for public services**
In order to avoid 'reinventing the wheel' we recommend the development of EU-wide standardised interoperable platforms for public sector services (such as eHealth, eLearning, eSecurity and eGovernment).
- 9 The voice of cities: Consulting Partner**
The i2010 initiative recognises the role of cities in the development of high speed networks and rich multimedia content. EUROCITIES brings together experts from Innovative cities and as such is a natural consulting partner for the Commission when preparing further action with regard to the deployment of broadband such as the 7th Research Framework Programme, the review of regulatory frameworks and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme.
- 10 Collaboration: call for support**
The European Commission and national governments are giving too much leeway to the market without demanding sufficient guarantees as to the quality of the development. Taylor-made arrangements are needed (financial, regulatory, etc.). Moreover, the desired development of broadband and broadband services calls for collaboration between all parties: cities, regions, national government, market parties, interest groups and other relevant organisations.