

EU Guidelines for Public Aids in NGN





The new EU Guidelines for Public Aids in the Deployment of NGN Perspectives and potential impacts (Part I)

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www.cost605.org



Source: NASA/GSFC

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1. Background. A new framework (1/3)

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Policy goals and challenges for a new framework

- ➔ Last 10 years in telecommunication sector have been devoted to develop effective competition -> price declines, new services, innovation, improved quality, benefit to consumers and users
- ➔ Need to adapt the framework (for the 3rd time) to refocus regulation on remaining competition problems (“first substantial deregulation”)
- ➔ “Market review procedures rationalised and simplified” and “Strengthen EC oversight to improve consistency”
- ➔ New issues (broadband networks, triple play, mobile communications, new consumer issues). In particular, positive results from competition are being challenged by characteristics of next generation access technologies
- ➔ Public funding of NGN while avoiding distortion of competition

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1. Background. A new framework (2/3)

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2 Directives amending the “*Telecom package*” of April 2002

- ➔ **Framework Directive / Better Regulation Directive 2009/140/EC:**
 - Amending Framework, Access, and Authorisation Directives
 - The Industry Committee (ITRE) led the amendment proposals
- ➔ **Citizens’ Rights Directive 2009/136/EC**, amending the:
 - Universal Service Directive, and ePrivacy Directives
 - Internal Market Committee (IMCO) led the amendment proposals

1 Regulation decision establishing

- ➔ **Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)**

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1. Background. A new framework (3/3)

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- The newly approved framework will be completed by other regulation acts on:
 - Spectrum management
 - Net neutrality
 - Intellectual property in the electronic communications
- No specific agenda
 - ITRE rapporteur, Catherine Trautmann announced it would be in the next months...
- Additional regulations
 - Guidelines for regulation of **Next Generation Access**
 - **Guidelines for Public funding of NGN**
 - Coordination with Audiovisual Media Directive (2007/65)

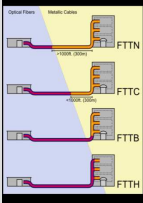
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2. State of NGN (1/4)

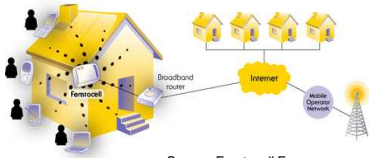
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+ fiber (FTTH)



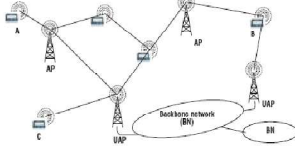
Source: Wikipedia

fixed-mobile convergence



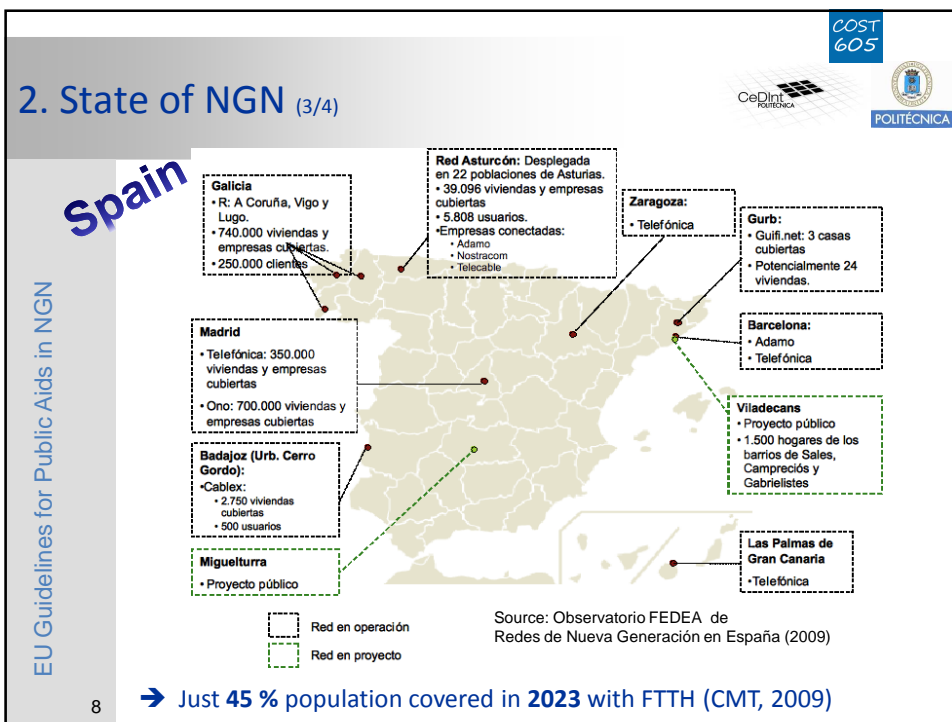
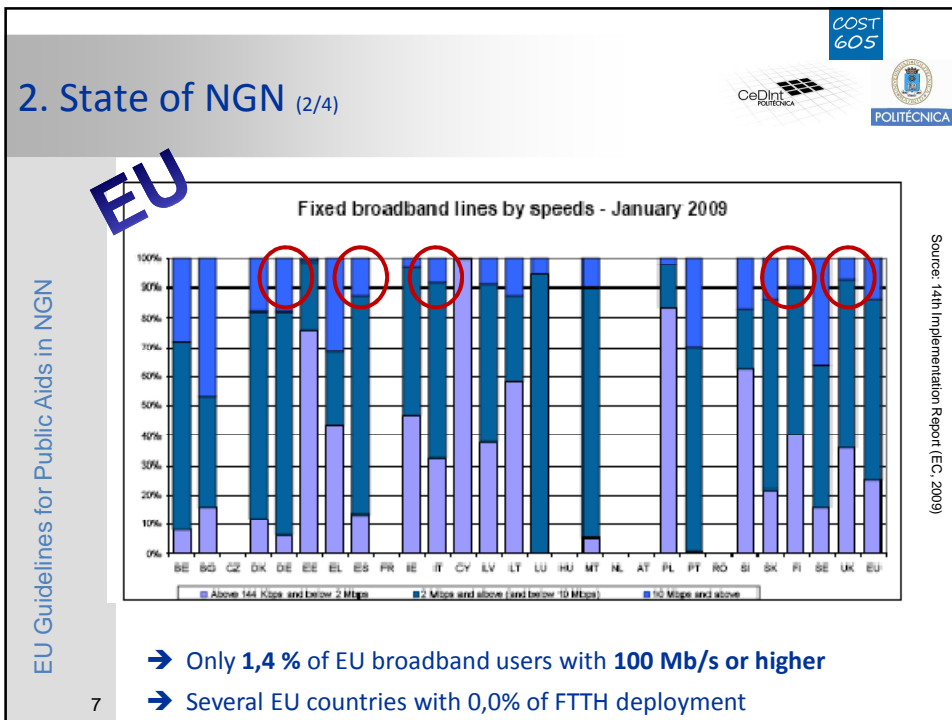
Source: Femtocell Forum

+ spectrum (4G and beyond)






Source: IPTS

- Current infrastructures not enough for **future demands**
- **Ubiquitous “ultra-broadband”**
- First time in (telecomm) history that huge investments for new infrastructures take place in **competition**
- How to ignite the virtuous circle of investment – **innovation?**
- Which is the situation of **EU?**



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2. State of NGN (4/4)

France

En millions, en fin de trimestre	T3 2009	T4 2008	T1 2009	T2 2009	T3 2009**
Nombre d'abonnements haut débit et très haut débit sur réseaux fixes	17.289	17.819	18.260	18.695	19.145
dont nombre d'abonnements haut débit	17.147	17.647	18.154	18.472	18.890
dont abonnements ADSL	16.323	16.804	17.209	17.515	18.033
dont autres abonnements haut débit	0.824	0.843	0.945	0.957	0.857
Dont nombre d'abonnements très haut débit	0.141	0.173	0.206	0.226	0.259
dont abonnements FTTH*	0.033	0.043	0.048	0.055	0.053
dont autres abonnements très haut débit	0.108	0.130	0.158	0.171	0.194

*y compris les abonnements en FTTB qui constituent une part minoritaire. La totalité de la croissance de cette rubrique est liée à la croissance du nombre d'abonnements en FTTH.
**résultats provisoires.

Source: L'observatoire du haut et très haut débit sur réseaux fixes

→ Similar situations for similar **geo-demographics**

→ Different **definition** of ultra-broadband (France > 50 Mb/s)

→ France: **30.000 million € for 100% population coverage** with fibre, 15.000 million € for 80% population coverage (ARCEP, 2010).

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2. The role of telecomm operators (1/2)

A: high density urban – urban



B: suburban



C: rural – remote rural



→ **Cost** of deployment per user inversely proportional to **population density**




→ Areas type **A**: Will have **NGN** and competition “level-3” (fixed + cable + bb mobile + others) to “level-2” (fixed + bb mobile). **Market** approach

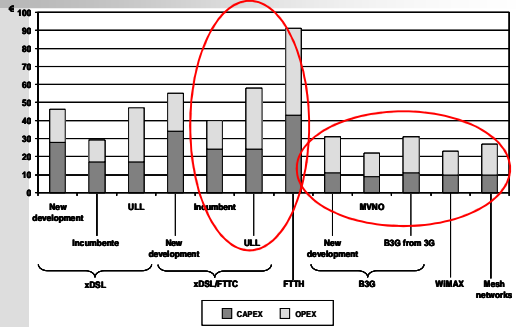
→ Areas type **B**: Will have NGN (in due time) and competition “level-1.5” (fixed + mobile). **Enough competition?**

→ Areas type **C**: No NGN and competition “level-1” (fixed / mobile universal service) to “level-0”. **Equity?**

2. The role of telecomm operators (2/2)

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Comparison of costs of technologies for NGN access.
Source: de Antonio, Feijoo, Gomez et al (2005)

- ➔ Operators have **slowly** started to invest in NGA. Fiber (FFTH) roll-out is **delayed** in the EU with regard to USA and Japan/Korea. Credible roadmaps for **4G** (LTE flavour) roll-out from 2010-11 onward. **Public role?**
- ➔ Operators doubt about whether the applications and services offered over a NGN can provide a sufficient **return on investment** and, at present, they are not sure which **killer application**, if any, will provide new revenues stream. **Net neutrality?**
- ➔ From about 2012 there will more **mobile** broadband connections than fixed ones.

3. The public involvement

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Public funding of infrastructures

Public Financial Commitment

digital agendas for information society development

Supply

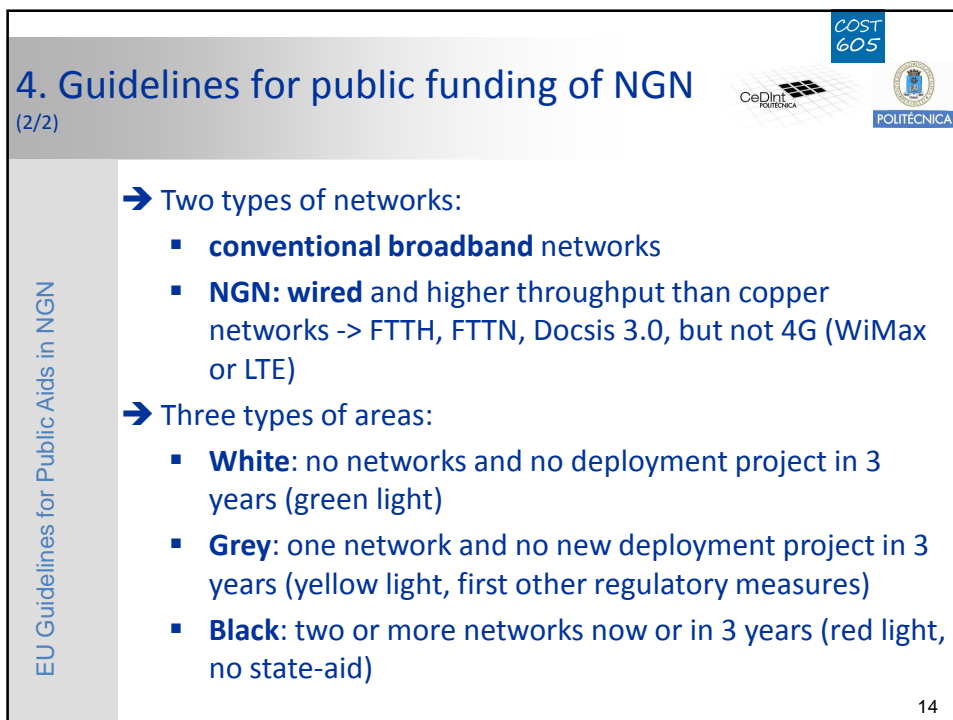
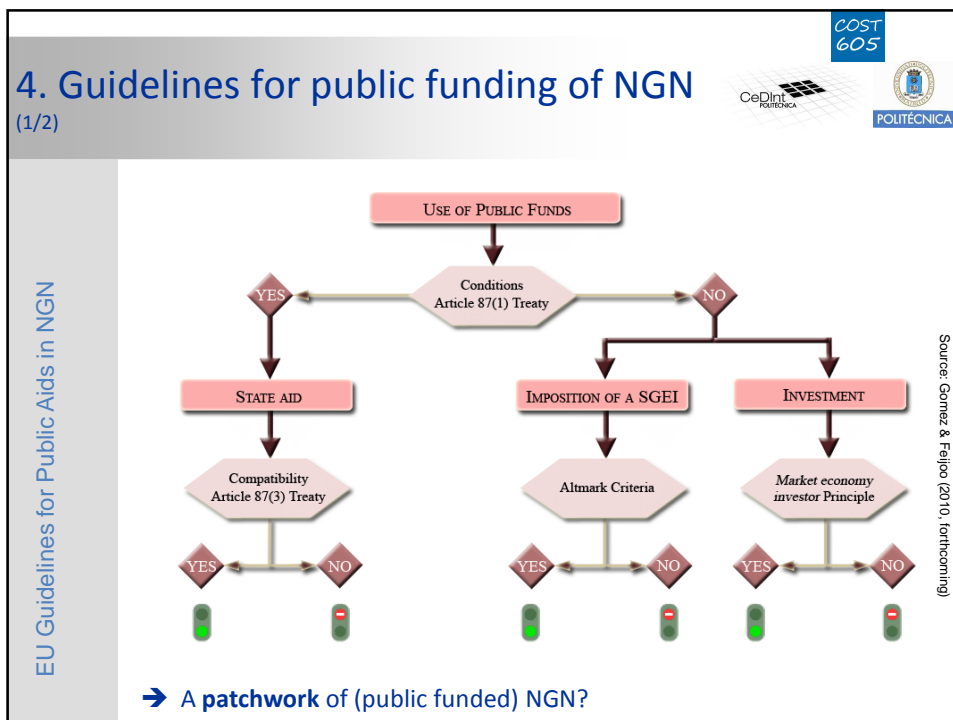
Public Financial Commitment

Demand

traditional regulation

Private Financial Commitment

Source: Milne & Feijoo (2008), Gomez & Feijoo (2009)



5. Some conclusions ...

A summary of the impacts of NGN

- **ICT capital investment** raises output and labour productivity, leads to innovations and, from here, sustainable growth and employment ... and its consequences
- **Market approach will not suffice** in the short term, but ...
- ... **lack of experience** in direct **public funding**
- The objective should be the opportunities for **innovation** ... which require also a right **structural framework** (i.e., regions with a high proportion of ICT-intensive industries), an adequate **institutional framework** (market behaviour, regulations, venture capital, business culture, access to human capital, etc), and mind a **time lag** due to the need to raise investments in human capital (training, education, motivation, competences, etc) in knowledge capital (research and development) and to introduce organizational innovations.

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5. ... and a call for action

- The unknown results and effects of the use of public funding in the deployment of broadband and next generation networks calls for **rigorous studies and contributions**
- **COST Econ@Tel** should be a leading force in such contributions due to its focus and expertise
- How? ... We propose a **book / special issue** (call for chapters/papers to be announced ... **expressions of interest welcome!!**)

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