



# Common Union Toolbox for Connectivity

## 9<sup>th</sup> (Final) Meeting of Connectivity Special Group

29 June 2022

# Connectivity Toolbox – Background

- **Commission Recommendation of 18.09.2020** called on Member States to agree on a common Union Toolbox of best practices to foster connectivity across the EU
- Timely deployment of **very high capacity networks** and investment-friendly access to **5G radio spectrum** are major enablers for future digital services
- The **Connectivity Toolbox** was agreed on **25 March 2021**
- It contains **39 best practices** covering the areas of reductions of network deployment costs and efficient access to 5G radio spectrum
- MS have the **discretion but also the responsibility** to implement the Toolbox
- By **30 April 2021**: MSs to submit their roadmaps for the implementation of the Toolbox
- By **30 April 2022**: MSs to submit their reports on the implementation of the Toolbox  
→ 3 MS – still pending submission of implementation reports



# Best Practices – Cost Reduction (1/5)

## Streamlining permit granting procedures

- BP1 Introduce permit exemptions and fast track procedures
- BP2 Provide model regulations on ECN deployment
- BP3 Provide informative materials and workshops for municipalities and other competent authorities
- BP4 Ensure the use of electronic means for permit applications
- BP5 Digital admin portal / SIP coordination
- BP6 Tacit approval for RoW
- BP7 Fast track procedures for RoW
- BP8 Establish broadband coordinators
- BP9 Use of jointly preparatory coordination procedures for granting RoW and permits necessary for civil works
- BP10 Legal requirements for appropriateness of fees

- 16 Member States + NO have implemented measures following the Toolbox.
- 20 Member States + NO have ongoing measures, partly due to lengthy legislative processes. In particular, more than 10 countries reported ongoing measures for **BPs1-4**. Overall lack of detail on expected time for implementation.
- **Area with a high number of measures discarded** by Member States (2 countries discarded 6 of the 10 BPs). 4 Member States + NO have implemented less than half of the BPs, due to previous measures in place and/or measures being discarded. Fewer measures adopted in connection to **BP6-9**.
- Action has been triggered in relation to permit fees (**BP10**): 8 MS implemented measures following the Toolbox and further 9 MS have measures ongoing.

→ ***Certain progress achieved as regards specific BPs, however 2/3 of the Member States have relevant measures still pending implementation***

# Best Practices - Cost Reduction (2/5)

## Improving transparency through the SIP

- **BP11** Ensure the availability of info from different sources and enhance transparency of planned civil works
- **BP12** Ensure the availability of info via the SIP in electronic format
- **BP13** Include georeferenced info in the data made available via the SIP
- **BP14** Make available indicative info on occupation level of the infrastructure and/or the existence of dark fibre
- **BP15** Ensure the provision via the SIP of transparency info on access conditions to existing physical infrastructure

- Area with a high number of ongoing measures (8 MS have 3-5 of the 5 BPs ongoing). More than 10 countries reported ongoing measures for BP14-15.
- Some progress achieved in 8 more countries (15 in total) in regard to **making available information via the SIP in electronic format** (BP12), while 7 Member States have measures ongoing (some still at the early stage of consultation with stakeholders).
- **Positive outcome as regards georeferenced information** where 6 more Member States implemented BP13 (14 in total), while 9 Member States have measures ongoing.

**→ Certain progress achieved in terms of information made available via the SIP and digitalisation**

# Best Practices - Cost Reduction (3/5)

## Expanding the right of access to existing physical infrastructure

- **BP16 Ensure access to physical infrastructure controlled by public bodies**
- **BP17 Entrust a body with a coordinator and/or promoter role**
- **BP18 Development of guidelines for all governance levels**

- Area with a high number of ongoing or discarded measures reported by Member States:
  - ONG – 7 Member States reported ongoing implementation of the 3 BPs
  - DISC – 5 countries discarded 2 of the 3 BPs
- More than 12 countries reported ongoing measures specifically for **BP16** and **BP18**.
- Information reported on **BP16** shows that it is still often confused with the implementation of current access obligations under BCRD or Art.57 EECC on small-cells! **Concrete action in very few countries.**
- **BP17 on coordination/promoter body was discarded by 11 Member States.**

**→ Limited progress reported in this area, while a number of relevant measures are still in the pipeline**

# Best Practices - Cost Reduction (4/5)

## Dispute resolution mechanism

- **BP19 Include an optional prior/parallel conciliation mechanism**
- **BP20 Ensure transparency, awareness and trust in the dispute resolution mechanism by issuing guidelines**
- **BP21 Ensure electronic communication and submission for parties**

- Area where a high number of Member States reported that measures were already in place.
- 10 Member States reported previous measures in relation to **BP19** and 8 in relation to **BP21**.
- Some progress achieved in relation to **BP20** and **BP21**, with 10 and 11 MS respectively having implemented measures in connection to Toolbox.

**→ Progress reported in the area of issuing guidelines as regards dispute resolution mechanisms and digitalisation**

# Best Practices - Cost Reduction (5/5)

## Reducing the environmental footprint of networks

- **BP22 Limit the negative environmental footprint of ECN**

- 15 Member States indicated ongoing measures whilst 5 Member States have implemented measures following the Toolbox.
- 3 Member States indicated previous measures were already in place.
- Overall **lack of concrete details** on the relevant measures. Possibly linked to the vague formulation used in the description of this BP and/or to new actions recently envisaged.

**→ Vague formulation of the BP makes it difficult to assess current situation and progress made in connection to the Toolbox**

# Best Practices - Radio Spectrum (1/5)

## Environmental Impact Assessment

### •BP23 Assessment of environmental effects

- Member States do not see issues with this best practice.
- Member States, in their majority, are already following it and generally implementing the three main Directives related to the assessment of environmental effects. They do so not at the stage of authorising the use of spectrum but when deciding to allow the installation of physical equipment for the deployment of mobile networks.

→ *No particular issues identified in terms of implementation of this BP*



# Best Practices - Radio Spectrum (2/5)

## Incentives for investment (1/2)

- **BP 24 Promote adequate reserve prices**
- **BP 25 Timely availability of 5G harmonised bands**
- **BP 26 Review National Spectrum Plans on a regular basis**
- **BP 27 Enable payments of award fees in instalments**
- **BP 28 Individual authorisation regime for the 24.25-27.5 GHz band**

- Overall, this section (all 9 BPs) was given due attention by most of the MSs;
- While the level of detail varies, it appears that all 9 BPs have been implemented (or their implementation is ongoing) by >22 of MSs;
- Only 8 MS discarded BPs, due to national constraints, and no more than 1 BP per MS (exceptionally only one MS has discarded 3 BPs);
- **BPs 24, 25, 26** have been or are being implemented by almost all MS. Ongoing status of **BP 25** in a good number of MS reflects the delays in 5G spectrum authorisation;
- Implementation of **BP 28** is considered ongoing in >half of MS, however this is not reflected in other channels of reporting to the Commission.

# Best Practices - Radio Spectrum (3/5)

## Incentives for investment (2/2)

- **BP 29** Combine coverage obligations with financial incentives
- **BP 30** Promote the opportunity of infrastructure sharing
- **BP 31** Structure of recurrent spectrum fees to incentivise roll-out
- **BP 32** Use financial aid as a complement to incentivise investments

- **BP 29** already implemented by 9 MSs under existing measures, and another 11 MS implemented in the context of the Toolbox;
- Existing infrastructure sharing in 23 MS justifies high level of implementation of **BP 30**.
- While in roadmaps, **BP 31** seemed not to be applicable to 9 MS and 8 MS giving no indication/response, it now appears to have reached very high level (>21 MS) of implementation;
- 21 MS are currently implementing **BP 32**.

- ***Overall, evident progress has been reported in the area of spectrum incentives***
- ***Critical measures to facilitate and foster wireless broadband connectivity!***
- ***Some MS need to speed up implementation!***

# Best Practices - Radio Spectrum (4/5)

## Enhanced Coordination on Spectrum Assignment for Cross-Border Industrial Use

- **BP33 Use coherent practice for granting rights of use for radio spectrum based on the Code**
  - **BP34 Facilitate Interoperability through the development and application of Standards**
  - **BP35 Make use of harmonised technical conditions developed by the CEPT/ECC if common dedicated frequency ranges are deemed necessary**
  - **BP36 When identifying the appropriate authorisation regime, MS should pay particular attention to any specificities resulting from a cross-border dimension**
- Topic addressed with certain reservation by the majority of MS – little recognition of demand, no anticipatory coordination approach
  - 14 % of all BPs across MS discarded, 14 % ongoing
  - Most MS report the transposition of the Code as such as sufficient for BP33, and do not propose specific application examples for use cases
  - Lack of detail/focus on measures related to BP34/BP35 - typically generic presentation (role of CEPT/ETSI)
  - Only 7 MS commit to specific coordination measures on BP36 – conditioned on demand by industry

→ ***Generic formulation of BPs entails little focus in reporting.***

→ ***Regulatory recognition and focus on cross-border vertical use needed !***

# Best Practices - Radio Spectrum (5/5)

## Aspects Related to EMF and Public Health

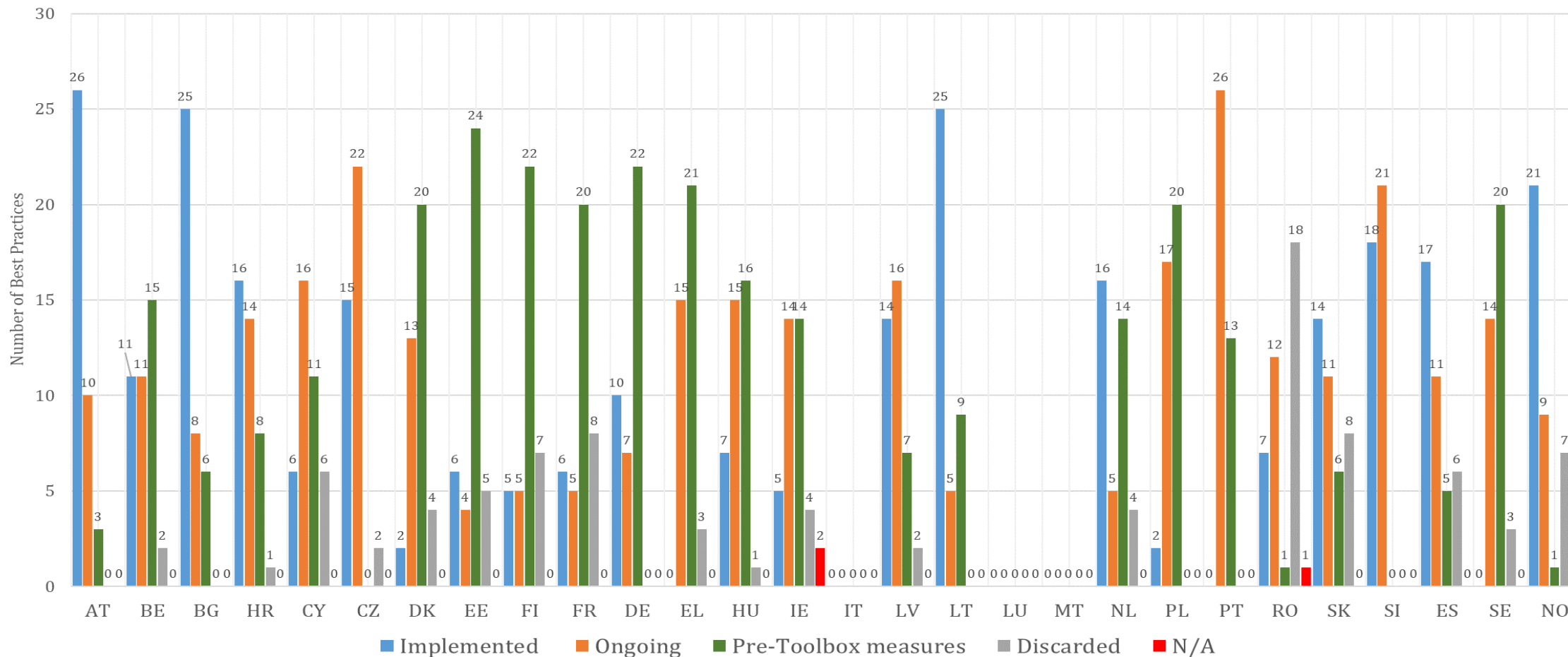
- **BP37 Promote continuous scientific research on EMF emissions carried out by credible and independent institutions**
- **BP38 Coordinated and targeted communication for informing and educating on 5G implementation**
- **BP39 Inform the public on the compliance of Radio Base Stations installations with applicable EMF safe limits**

- **Area of particular attention - high impact of Toolbox !**
- **Almost all MS report concrete steps / measures for implementation**
- **~ 45% of all BPs across MS in status “ongoing”**
- **> half of MS provide details on stakeholders/process**
- **Evaluation of national and international research**
- **Public information/education – clear priority**
- **Websites set up on transparency of measurements**

**→ Comprehensive treatment of a sensitive topic.**  
**→ Added value to the EC Recommendation !**

# Connectivity Toolbox – Implementation Status

Connectivity Toolbox - Implementation Status  
EU27 + Norway



# Conclusions

1

For most Member States: incremental value can be identified in specific areas:

- CR: permit fees, electronic info via SIP, georeferenced, guidelines for dispute settlement, and electronic procedure for dispute
- SP: BPs on EMF & Incentives for investment

EU funding: some Member States relied on RRF, CEF2-Digital and ESF.

→ **REMINDER: report Toolbox information via SIPs.**

2

Impact of Toolbox implementation to be fully realised within a couple of years, as many BP in “continuous mode”.

3

Proposal to review BCRD will build on identified best practices (e.g. in the area of access to public assets, digitalisation of procedures) but also go beyond.

Effective spectrum coordination for vertical use cases necessitates broader recognition.

Pending spectrum auctions need to be held asap, to unlock the respective spectrum measures.

Outcome on EMF well demonstrates Toolbox impact

# Thank you



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