



Study 20 — Draft guidelines for sharing passive and active network infrastructure and optimising public resources for network build-out in selected areas

AT A GLANCE

Study 20 maps how EU member states regulate the construction and sharing of electronic-communications networks and proposes practical guidance for the Czech Republic. It pairs an analysis of how subsidised projects are evaluated with a methodology for splitting costs when infrastructure is shared — so that the same public euro builds more high-capacity coverage and double financing is avoided.

What the study covers

Secure, cost-efficient roll-out of very-high-capacity networks (VHCN) and 5G depends on dense fixed backhaul and on avoiding needless duplication. To that end the study is built around three connected parts:

- **An evaluation model** for projects competing for public support, with measures to make scoring more transparent and accurate.
- **Infrastructure sharing** — the scope and modes of sharing for both mobile 5G and fixed networks, with foreign experience and options for Czechia.
- **Sharing in the subsidy environment** — cost-sharing and cost-deductibility rules for grant-funded build-out.

Why it matters

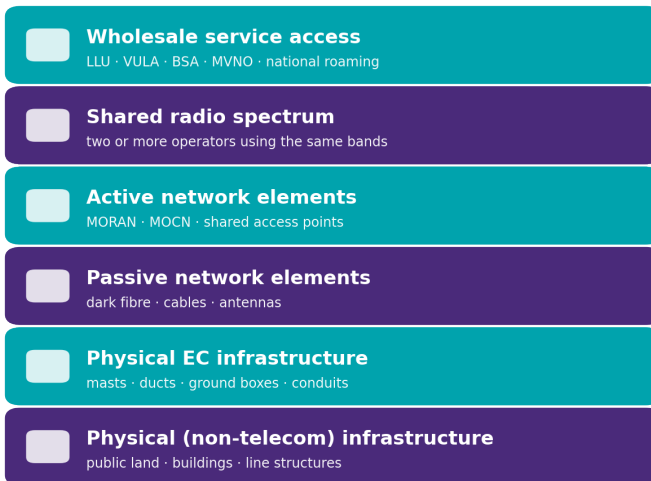
Network-sharing agreements now exist between mobile operators in almost every EU member state. Most aim to cut the cost of reaching less-profitable places — rural and sparsely populated areas, or sites that are hard to cover for other reasons such as heritage protection. Combining the goals of fixed VHCN and mobile build-out in the same subsidised project can stretch limited public resources further by preventing two grants from paying for overlapping work.

From the 2014 Directive to the directly-effective Gigabit Infrastructure Act

The EU framework moved from **Directive 2014/61/EU** (Broadband Cost Reduction) to the **Gigabit Infrastructure Act — Regulation (EU) 2024/1309**, adopted 29 April 2024, which repeals the 2014 Directive and is directly effective across the Union. BEREC guidance and European Commission recommendations complete the picture. In Czechia the corresponding parts of Act No. 194/2017 are replaced by the directly-effective Regulation from 12 November 2025.



How sharing works — the access layers



Sharing can apply at any layer of the network — from the physical ground up to wholesale services and even the radio spectrum. The Guidelines treat each as a distinct route to setting up a network, with its own actors: the **access seeker** and the **obligated party**.

For fixed networks the study identifies five sharing models — **joint venture, joint construction, mutual access, infrastructure access and passive-infrastructure sharing**. In Czech practice the prevailing cost-sharing modes are coordination, purchase agreements and *adjacency (připolož)*.

International inspiration

PT Portugal

Strong duty to embed reusable infrastructure in public works, with a public register of available infrastructure (SIIA) and fast, non-discriminatory municipal permitting.

PL Poland

The “Mega-Act” prioritises reuse of existing assets and opens access to utility and public infrastructure — doubling the stock of usable masts in just a few years.

IE Ireland

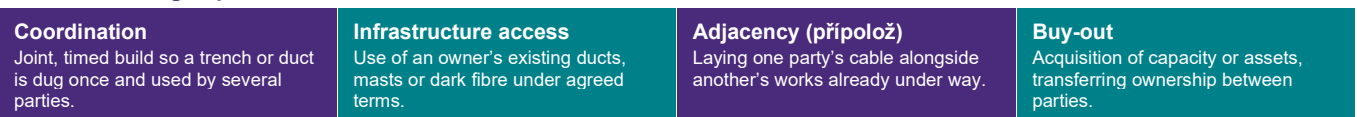
Clear planning exemptions for defined telecom works and a dedicated broadband officer in each local authority to streamline cooperation with network operators.

A methodology for sharing costs in subsidised projects

When infrastructure is shared inside a grant project, costs must be split fairly and verifiably. The study sets out five dimensions that together drive a correct allocation:



Forms of sharing in practice



RECOMMENDATIONS — refining how projects are scored

Changes already made by the grant provider

- Reward coverage of address points not yet served; objectify scoring with point-allocation tables; rebalance criteria weights; switch the metric to subsidy per address point covered; adjust the SME bonus.

Changes proposed by the study preparer

- Preserve criteria weighting via a scaling coefficient; widen and re-balance scoring intervals; refine the total-points formula; and justify and verify the SME bonus (10%) and the minimum acceptance threshold (20 points).

KEY TAKEAWAY Coordinated infrastructure sharing, backed by a clear cost-allocation methodology and a directly-effective EU framework, lets public funds reach further — avoiding double financing and extending high-capacity coverage to the areas that markets leave behind. A shared priority for connectivity policy across the European Union.