

Overview of Rural and Mountain Connectivity ITALY

In Italy, less than half of the households living in municipalities under two thousand inhabitants in what so called "inner areas" have access to a fixed broadband connection.

In most cases, people still connect using ADSL, sending and receiving data using the copper pair. According to Istat, this figure is about 10% lower than the average for the country, 45.1% compared to 54.3%. The problems connected with the digital divide, however, are not a private factor and do not respond to the choices of families: the European Commission knows this, and in 2010, with the Digital Agenda for Europe, it set the goal of guaranteeing 85% of the population access to ultra-wideband (characterised by a download speed of at least 100 Megabits per second, Mbps) and to bring the remaining 15% at least a broadband connection, i.e. a connection that allows downloading at a speed of 30 Mbps, using fibre instead of copper.