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## An easy lesson to closing the broadband gap for European schools

***European Commission's latest study on satellite broadband for schools delivers answers on how to get more schools online***

Digital learning is gaining ground but without broadband access in schools its vast potential is left untapped. There are still too many schools throughout the EU that aren't connected to the Internet, especially primary schools, 25% of which were still deprived of broadband in 2016. Schools in rural areas not covered by fixed or mobile broadband are especially disadvantaged. These schools and local authorities often lack knowledge on

their options for broadband, there is a limited number of dedicated, large national institutional support programmes and there is lack of understanding of funding options, including voucher schemes.

The European Commission has addressed this knowledge deficit head-on in a feasibility study on satellite broadband in schools within the framework of the BROSS (BROadband Satellite for Schools) project. The new study, carried out by RISE Acreo, Airbus, 2thePoint Consulting and Eutelsat, mapped out current and forecast gaps of broadband availability for European schools. It concludes that satellite broadband can be an easy option for poorly connected schools if Awareness, Coordination and Price are properly addressed.

### **Key advantages of satellite broadband**

Satellite broadband has multiple advantages for the many schools beyond range of terrestrial networks including:

- predictable and stable quality of service everywhere, regardless of location
- simple and quick deployment
- cost-efficient deployment
- high reliability and security

### **A case-study based report**

Cases in France, the US, Mexico, Italy, the UK, Ireland, Spain and Turkey are studied in the report. They include analysis of the “*École Connectées*” programme in France deployed as part of the “*France Très Haut Débit*” plan, and the “ONE CLASS! Open Network for Education” project, currently underway in Italy under the supervision of the European Space Agency (ESA).

### **A true e-learning programme**

In order to present a full overview of what schools need to do to overcome the hurdle of getting online, the study identifies support mechanisms that go beyond pure broadband access, including support, training and customised solutions. It also shows how satellites can combine point-to-point broadband connectivity with multi-casting of content for locally-stored digital libraries of videos, interactive video-based content, e-books, digital test books,

exercise software, simulation or learning games, interactive maps, software, and a host of other educational tools.

### **Voucher solutions: a ready-to-use option**

Voucher schemes are an efficient financing tool to stimulate demand for priority services. A basic voucher scheme can cover the fixed cost of satellite terminal equipment and installation as well as monthly recurring costs for a limited period (e.g. 24 months), representing a simpler and quicker process than traditional purchasing that calls for an upfront investment.

To learn more about the BROSS project and the Feasibility Study, please visit the European Commission's website: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/results-satellite-broadband-schools-study>

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### **About Eutelsat Group**

Eutelsat Group is a global leader in satellite communications, delivering connectivity and broadcast services worldwide. The Group was formed through the combination of the Company and OneWeb in 2023, becoming the first fully integrated GEO-LEO satellite operator with a fleet of 34 Geostationary satellites and a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) constellation of more than 600 satellites. The Group addresses the needs of customers in four key verticals of Video, where it distributes more than 6,500 television channels, and the high-growth connectivity markets of Mobile Connectivity, Fixed Connectivity, and Government Services. Eutelsat Group's unique suite of in-orbit assets and ground infrastructure enables it to deliver integrated solutions to meet the needs of global customers. The Company is headquartered in Paris and the Eutelsat Group employs more than 1,500 people across more than 50 countries. The Group is committed to delivering safe, resilient, and environmentally sustainable connectivity to help bridge the digital divide. The Company is listed on the Euronext Paris Stock Exchange (ticker: ETL) and the London Stock Exchange (ticker: ETL)

**Find out more at** [www.eutelsat.com](http://www.eutelsat.com)

### **Media enquiries**

Joanna Darlington  
Tel. +33 674 521 531  
[jdarlington@eutelsat.com](mailto:jdarlington@eutelsat.com)

Anita Baltagi  
Tel. +33 +33 643 930 178  
[abaltagi@eutelsat.com](mailto:abaltagi@eutelsat.com)

Katie Dowd  
Tel. +1 202 271 2209  
[kdowd@oneweb.net](mailto:kdowd@oneweb.net)

## **Investors**

Joanna Darlington  
Tel. +33 674 521 531  
[jdarlington@eutelsat.com](mailto:jdarlington@eutelsat.com)

Hugo Laurens Berge  
Tel. +33 670 80 95 58  
[hlaurensberge@eutelsat.com](mailto:hlaurensberge@eutelsat.com)

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