

Calling for a Brighter Future

FTTH Conference 2016 in Luxembourg

The FTTH Conference is the annual place of exchange the various stakeholders involved in fibre to the home. The first FTTH Conference was organised in 2004, the same year as the creation of the FTTH Council Europe, an industry organisation with a mission to accelerate the availability of fibre-based, ultra-high-speed access networks to consumers and businesses.

The FTTH Council Europe is organising this year its 13th edition of the FTTH Conference, to be held from 16 to 18 February 2016 in Luxembourg City, Luxembourg. “Our event aims at providing a perfect opportunity for broadband stakeholders to learn about and discuss every aspect of FTTH, ranging from FTTH technology, market, financing and regulations to FTTH-enabled services” explains Nadia Babaali, Communications Director of the FTTH Council Europe.



Luxembourg to welcome the world's largest FTTH-related event

The FTTH Council Europe decided this year to hold its annual FTTH Conference in Luxembourg for several reasons. “A lot is happening in the country”, Nadia Babaali explains. “There is a high penetration of fibre in Luxembourg.” Luxembourg is also one of the decision taking centres of the European Union and host to a number of services of the European Commission. “We hope that by organising the FTTH Conference in Luxembourg, it will echo across Europe and push for fibre rollout in the whole continent.”

There is indeed a high engagement and support of Luxembourgish policy makers in fibre rollout and information and communication technologies, particularly the “Digital Lëtzebuerg” initiative. On this matter, Nadia Ba-

baali says: “We are deeply honoured by the involvement of the Luxembourg Government for our FTTH Conference 2016: the event has received the high patronage of Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister and Minister for Communications and Media of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Xavier Bettel will also deliver the opening speech of the FTTH Conference 2016, officially kicking off the event.”

Local industry players have also been heavily involved, including incumbent operator POST, Gold Sponsor of the event. Other local stakeholders include the Ministry of Communications, Luxembourg Innovation, LU-CIX, media services provider Broadcasting Center Europe, electric distribution company Creos, and many others.

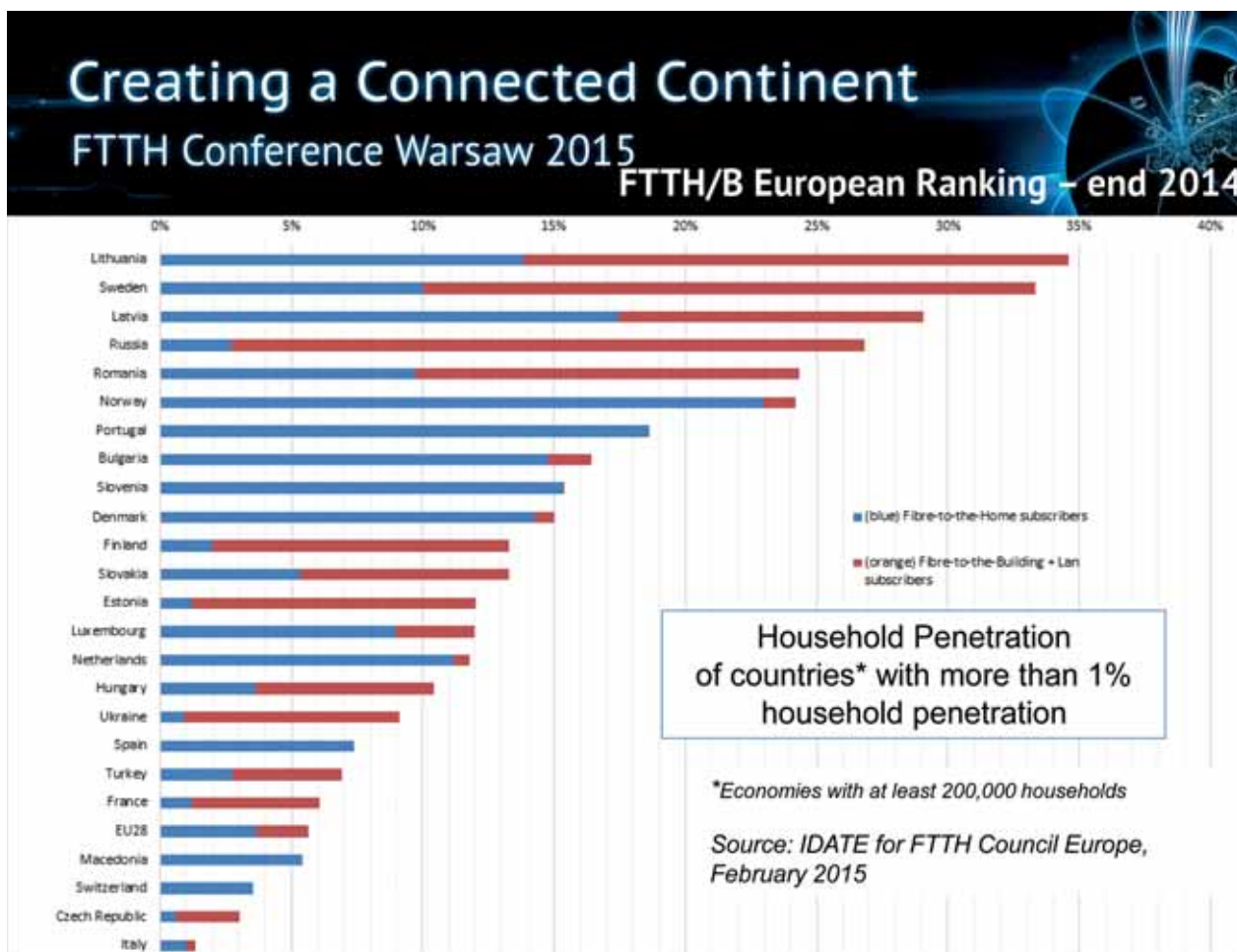


Calling for a Brighter Future!

The FTTH Conference 2016 has the motto “Calling for a Brighter Future”. “Fibre to the home is the only future-proof broadband access solution: it will simplify and improve the way we live and work, with a great positive socioeconomic impact for Europe. Our event is totally aligned with the FTTH Council Europe’s objective to provide a brighter future for all citizens through fibre to the home rollout.” Nadia Babaali says.

Throughout the event, the “Calling for a brighter future” theme will be featured, especially during the keynote speech of Ruud Hendriks, entrepreneurial icon and co-founder of Start-upbootcamp. He will provide inspiring insights about entrepreneurs and new businesses that have achieved success thanks to ultra-high speed fibre based infrastructure. As a respected visionary, he will base his speech on real-life examples and express his views on where the start-up world is heading and how fibre to the home can enable the services of tomorrow and create a better world.





“We are happy to have Ruud Hendriks as a keynote speaker of the FTTH Conference 2016.” President of the FTTH Council Europe Edgar Aker says. “Ruud brings in impressive background and experience in his earlier career starting commercial television in the Netherlands. We all know video is one of the main drivers of broadband demand. But delegates can also expect Ruud to share his view on how start-ups, new generations of young, enthusiastic entrepreneurs need a reliable, high capacity and future-proof telecom infrastructure based on fibre and how our European economy can benefit from FTTH.”

More than 3,000 attendees from 85 countries – including decision makers from the European Commission, national governments and municipalities, as well as management-level attendees from telecom operators, financing institutions, service and application providers, analysts and industry experts, academia and media – are expected to

gather at the FTTH Conference 2016. The event includes workshops, conference sessions, leading edge exhibition and hands-on demos of FTTH-enabled services.

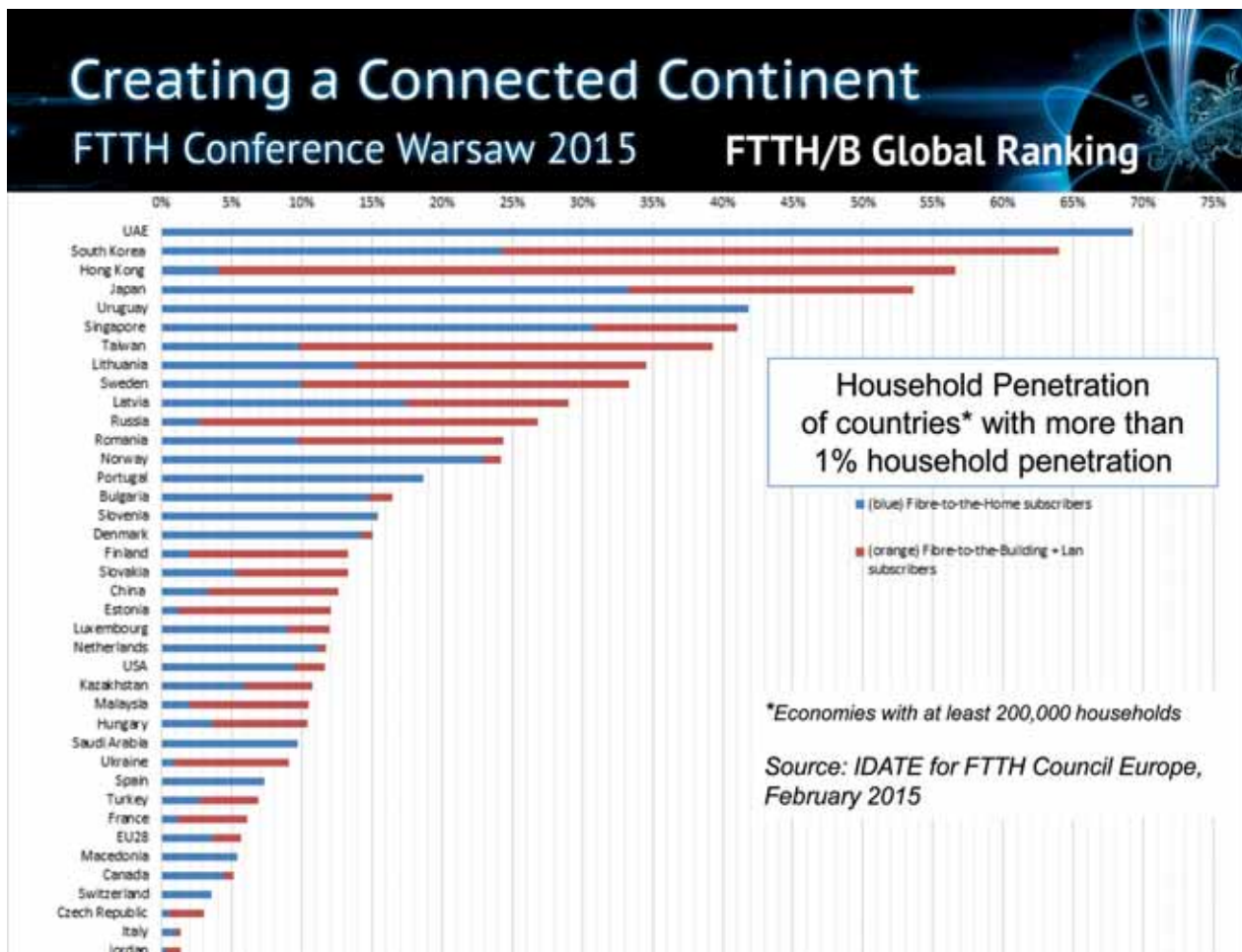
Attendees will have the opportunity to exchange knowledge about hot FTTH-related topics concerning financing, deployment, marketing and services, as well as looking at the state of the market in Europe and inspiring case studies. The three-day event includes a day of workshops and a two-day conference. In addition, more than 90 top industry players will offer hands-on experience of their latest innovations in the Exhibition Hall.

Heading towards a future-proof Europe

On the occasion of the FTTH Conference 2016, the organisation will present the exclusive 2015 FTTH ranking and market panorama update

in Europe, a study prepared by analyst firm Idate on behalf of the FTTH Council Europe. “Over the last two years, there has been a significant increase of fibre subscribers, it proves that FTTH/B is poised to become THE mass market broadband product in Europe.” Nadia Babaali says. “We are very eager to unveil the updated European market panorama for the year 2015.”

At end-December 2014, the FTTH study observed that there were nearly 15 million FTTH/B subscribers on the European continent, not including Russia and Ukraine, which would add a further 14.8 million homes to the total. The number of FTTH and FTTB subscribers in Europe has increased by 50% over the 12 months ending December 2014. Good progress was reported in countries like Romania, Spain, France, Netherlands and Portugal. Yet, the study stated that a number of European countries were



FTTH Awards to celebrate two FTTH champions in Europe

The FTTH Conference will also unveil the winners of the annual FTTH Council Europe Award. "This special and prestigious award recognises outstanding support and advancement in to the acceleration of FTTH in Europe. It is always a great pleasure for us to celebrate the most important actors of FTTH rollout" says Nadia Babaali.

The award has two categories: the FTTH Council Europe Individual Award, that honours an individual for his/her special efforts to make FTTH happen in Europe, and the FTTH Council Europe Operator Award, given to an operator company that has made a clear decision in favour of FTTH in Europe. The great winners of the FTTH Award 2015 were dstelecom (dst group) and Dik Wessels that received respectively the FTTH Operator Award and Individual Award, for their outstanding efforts to accelerate the adoption of FTTH in Europe.



still holding back on their fibre rollouts and are then missing out on the socio-economic advantages that FTTH can bring. Countries like Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic or the United Kingdom connected fewer than 20,000 new FTTH subscribers during the whole 2014.

The questions pending now are 1/ how has the whole European FTTH market evolved in 2015 and 2/ what are the current FTTH market trends? The answers to these questions will be revealed during the FTTH Conference. "The latest FTTH ranking and market panorama will be presented on Wednesday 17 February. A lot of progress has been made in fibre roll-out in 2015 throughout Europe, FTTH Conference delegates can expect some good surprises!" Nadia Babaali concludes.