

The league of top European FTTH economies welcomes France, Portugal, Czech Republic and Bulgaria

Out of the 15 European economies that have reached 1 percent FTTH penetration, Eastern Europe and Scandinavia are the most dynamic, and Lithuania leapfrogs into number one position.

BRUSSELS, 24 February 2010 – At the FTTH Conference 2010 in Lisbon today, the FTTH Council Europe unveiled the latest figures showing which European countries are leading the way in the penetration of fibre-to-the-home at year-end 2009¹.

Although Sweden, Norway and Slovenia have maintained their places in the top five, they have been overtaken by Lithuania, which made a dynamic jump to the number one position with 18 percent FTTH penetration. All four countries now have penetration rates greater than 10 percent – a significant milestone for Europe.

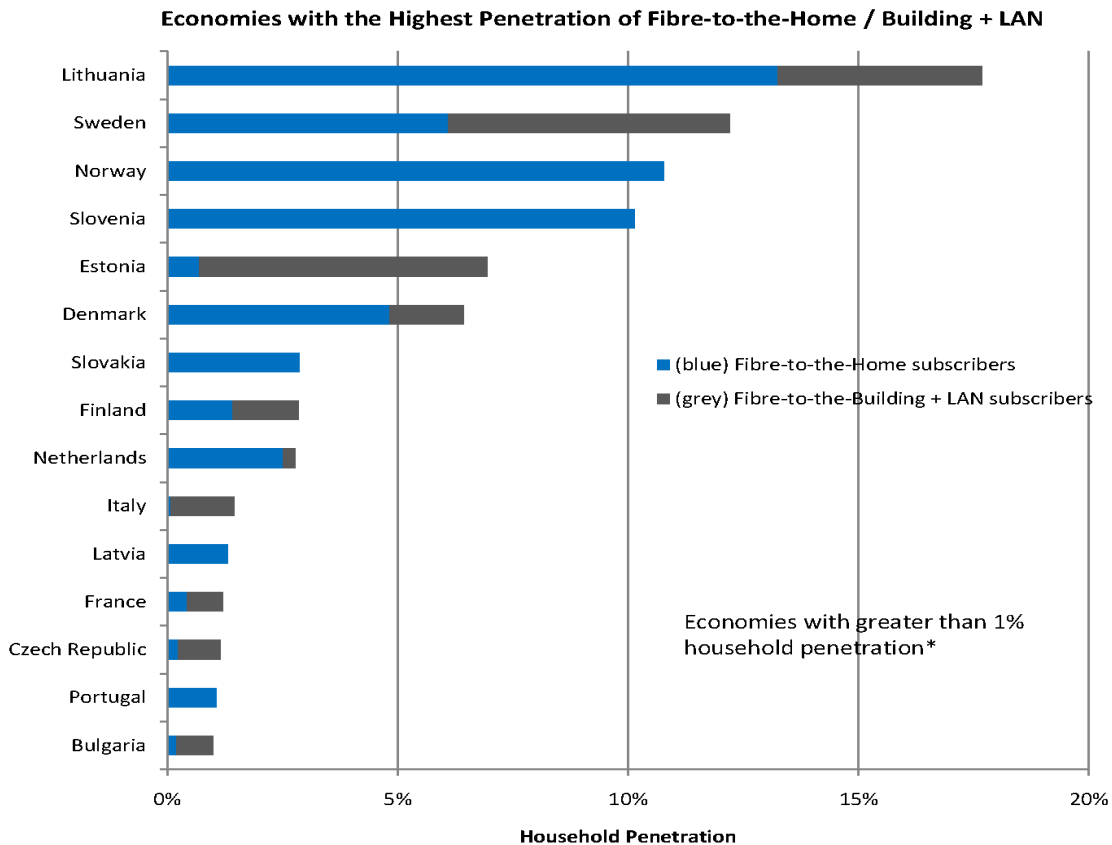
France and Portugal broke into the Ranking for the first time, helped by strong deployment of fibre infrastructure as well as marketing efforts to engage subscribers. FTTH uptake in both countries is expected to continue to increase rapidly as both countries also rank in the top 10 economies in terms of the availability of FTTH.

In absolute figures Europe has reached 2.5 million subscribers; 3.5 million if Russia is also included. The majority of subscribers (77 percent) are concentrated in seven countries, in the following order: Sweden, Italy, France, Lithuania, Norway, The Netherlands and Denmark. Amongst them 5 countries now have connected more than 200,000 subscribers.

FTTH Council Europe President Karel Helsen comments: “All data gathered in the market panorama confirm our forecasts of steady growth in both the number of fibre to the home subscribers and homes passed, in spite of the economic downturn. This is great news! With France the second European G-20 country has joined the Ranking of leading FTTH/B economies, joining Italy. It is up to Germany and UK to increase their efforts to follow as soon as possible.”

The FTTH Council Europe’s unique Ranking is part of its Market Panorama study, commissioned from research firm IDATE. It shows the percentage of homes and businesses that receive broadband communications services over direct fibre-optic connections to their homes or buildings. The FTTH Global Ranking for 2009 will be announced at the FTTH Conference tomorrow 25 February, by representatives from the three FTTH Council organisations.

¹ The FTTH European and Global Rankings are based on the FTTH Councils’ definition of FTTH/B: it includes both Fibre to the Home (FTTH), where the fibre connection reaches direct to the household, and Fibre to the Building (FTTB), where fibre terminates inside the boundary of a multi-tenant building. The Ranking covers all countries with at least 200,000 households where the penetration of FTTH/B has reached 1% of the total number of homes.



December 2009 European Ranking
Source: FTTH Council Europe and IDATE
February 2010

*Economies with at least 200,000 households

About The FTTH Council Europe

The FTTH Council Europe is an industry organisation with a mission to accelerate the availability of fibre-based, ultra-high-speed access networks to consumers and businesses. The Council promotes this technology because it will deliver a flow of new services that enhances the quality of life, contributes to a better environment and increased economic competitiveness. The FTTH Council Europe consists of more than 130 members companies. www.ftthcouncil.eu

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