

WiFi4EU Initiative

Free Wi-Fi for citizen and visitors in your municipality

Executive summary

How to benefit from European Union funding to modernize your municipality

What is WiFi4EU project?

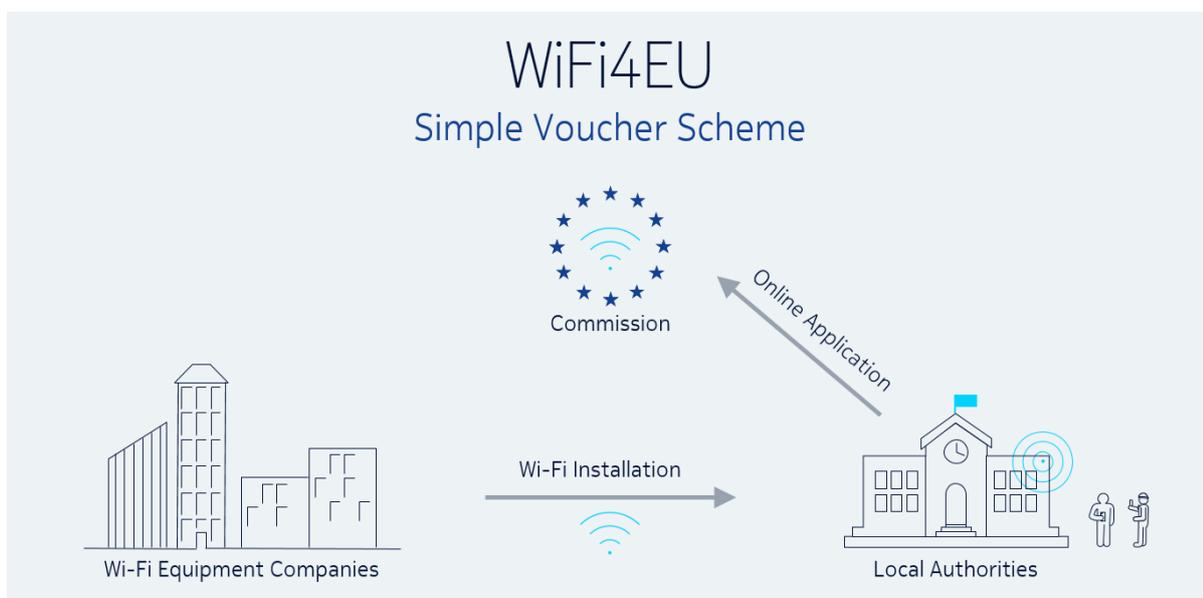
Through its 'Free WiFi4EU project', the European Union will provide **120 million Euros in funding to up to 8000 European municipalities** to sponsor the offering of free local Wi-fi connectivity to citizens and visitors in the centers of local public life. This initiative will run from end of 2017 till mid 2020.

The objective is to equip all public venues, such as public administrations, libraries, health centers and public outdoor spaces with Gigabit internet wireless connections, when it doesn't exist yet.

Each selected municipality will receive a voucher from the European Union to cover hardware installations enabling it to offer free Wi-Fi for a minimum of three years. Operational expenses of running the wifi network will be handled by Municipalities.

How does it work?

1. Interested municipalities need to register to a portal to be set up by the European Commission in **November 2017** and provide some info on their free Wi-Fi plans.
2. The Commission has promised an unbureaucratic system which will require the submission of only basic info.



Technical requirements are simple: It needs to be based on state of the art equipment, easy to access, appropriately secured, part of an authentication system, and enabling high quality Internet experience.

3. Vouchers will be attributed on the basis of first come first serve (depending on a certain contingent set for each EU Member State). To allow many cities to benefit from this initiative, voucher will be capped to a maximum of approximately 15 k€ per municipality. City receiving the voucher can choose the location where it wishes to provide free internet access as long as it's a public space without similar service already existing.
4. City then has the responsibility to select Wi-Fi equipment and manage the installation of the Wi-Fi hot spots in its public spaces.
5. the 3rd party company performing the installation will receive from the city the voucher as part of its payment.
6. In exchange of funding the hardware installation, the municipality will have to sign up to the commitment to provide the service out of their own budget for a minimum period of three years.
7. The Commission will then control via an app-system whether the promised local access points are up and running.

What are the benefit for cities?

Municipalities have a lot to gain from this project. At a very reasonable cost they will be able to:

1. Improve citizen engagement and interaction.
2. Increase their attractiveness and visibility to visitors. Once a user is signed up, he or she will have free Wi-Fi access at all participating municipalities across Europe.

Use this as a stepping stone on their way to becoming a smart city, as Wi-Fi can be used to connect new sensors that can be deployed across public venues.

How Nokia can help?

Nokia is a global telecom leader with deep European roots, headquartered in Helsinki, Finland, with local presences in all EU Member States. We offer a competitive high-quality plug-and-play Wi-Fi solution, that fully matches Wifi4EU technical requirements as well as cities need for hi-quality, easy to operate Wi-Fi network.

Nokia AirScale Wi-Fi solution gives you the following benefits:

1. **State of the art, Hi performance indoor and outdoor wifi access points**, benefiting from our very strong expertise in wireless technologies, to deliver great quality of experience to your citizens and protect your investment.
2. **Simplicity** to deploy (plug and play solution) and operate (Wi-Fi as a service) for quick service roll-out as well as to avoid dedicated skilled IT resources run the network.
3. **Affordability**, thanks to competitive access points, and pay-as-you-go subscription model, to keep total project cost low and predictable.

We use a network of local skilled partners, which can support you to define, install and manage your project.



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