

Digitalisation in rural areas

CORA – COnnecting Remote areas with digital infrastructure and services

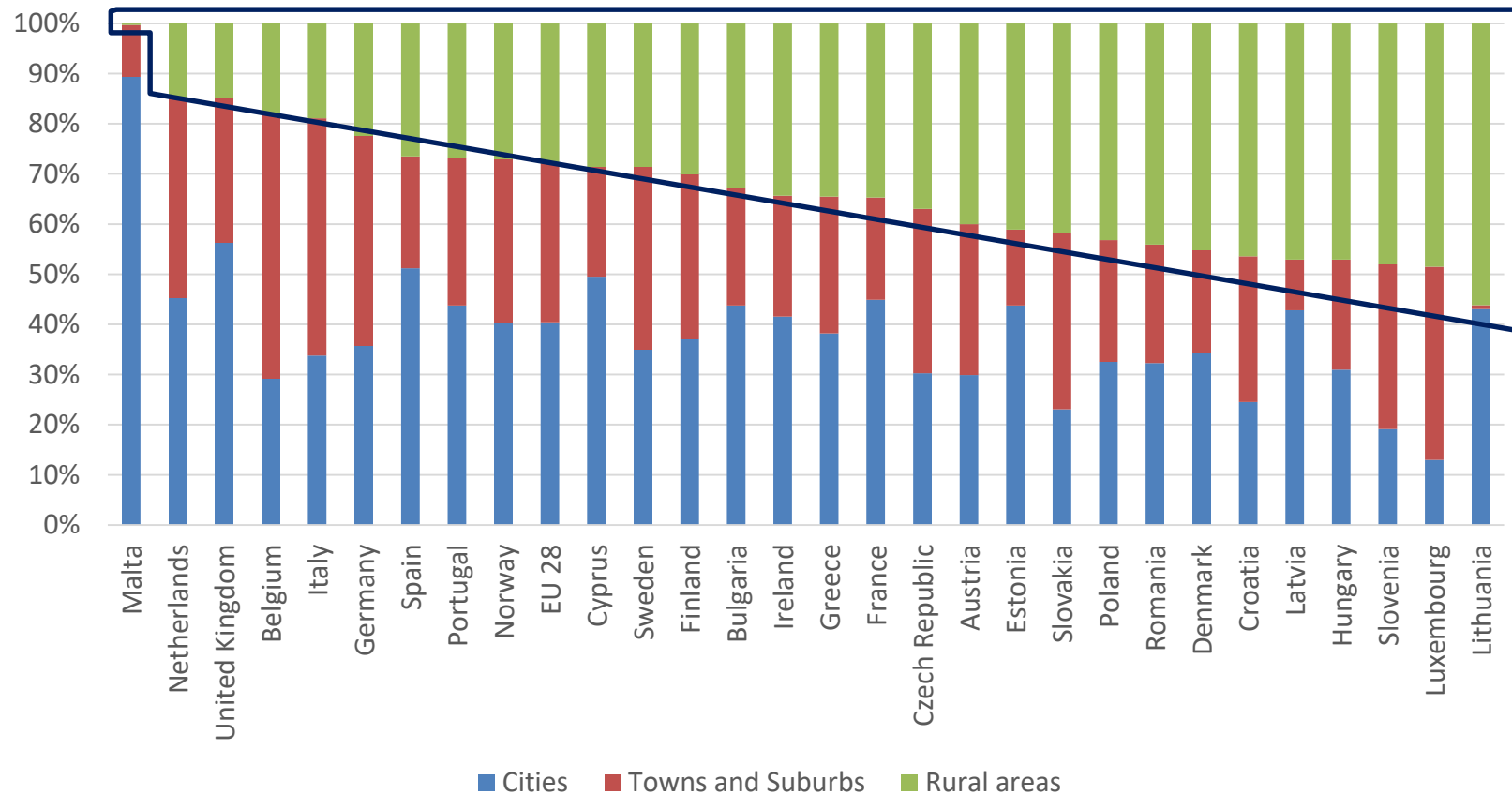
The background of the slide features a close-up, artistic shot of numerous fiber optic cables. The cables are bundled together, with many individual strands visible, creating a complex web of light and shadow. The light reflecting off the glass surfaces of the fibers gives the image a sense of depth and movement. A solid teal rectangular box is positioned on the left side of the image, serving as a backdrop for the title text.

Rural digital divide

A European territorial challenge

Status Quo

Distribution of population, by degree of urbanisation, 2015



Rural areas matter!!!

In 2015 more than 140 Million Europeans were living in rural areas.

28% of EU population!

NGA coverage in rural areas

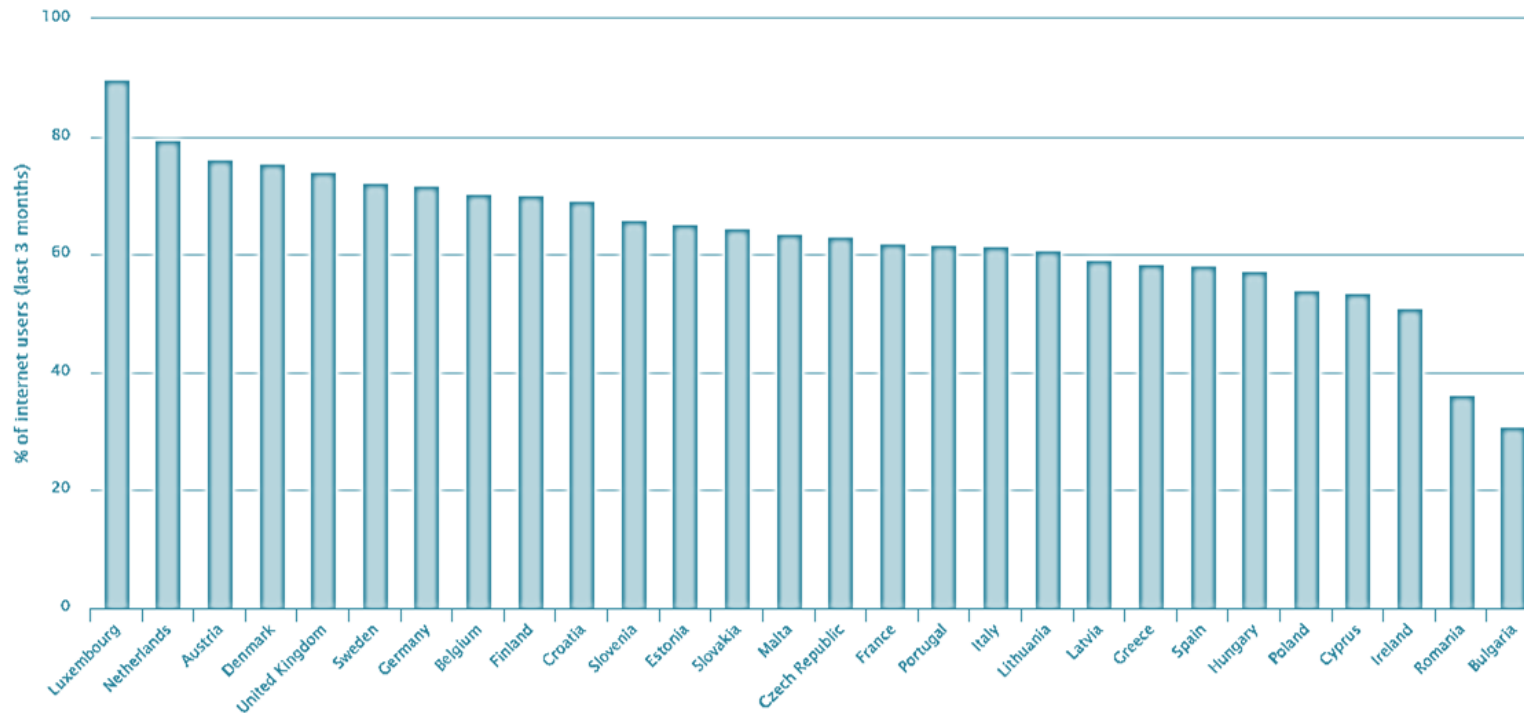
NGA coverage in Mid-2015



Limited connectivity!

Digital skills

Individuals with basic and above basic digital skills (in sparsely populated areas – 2016)

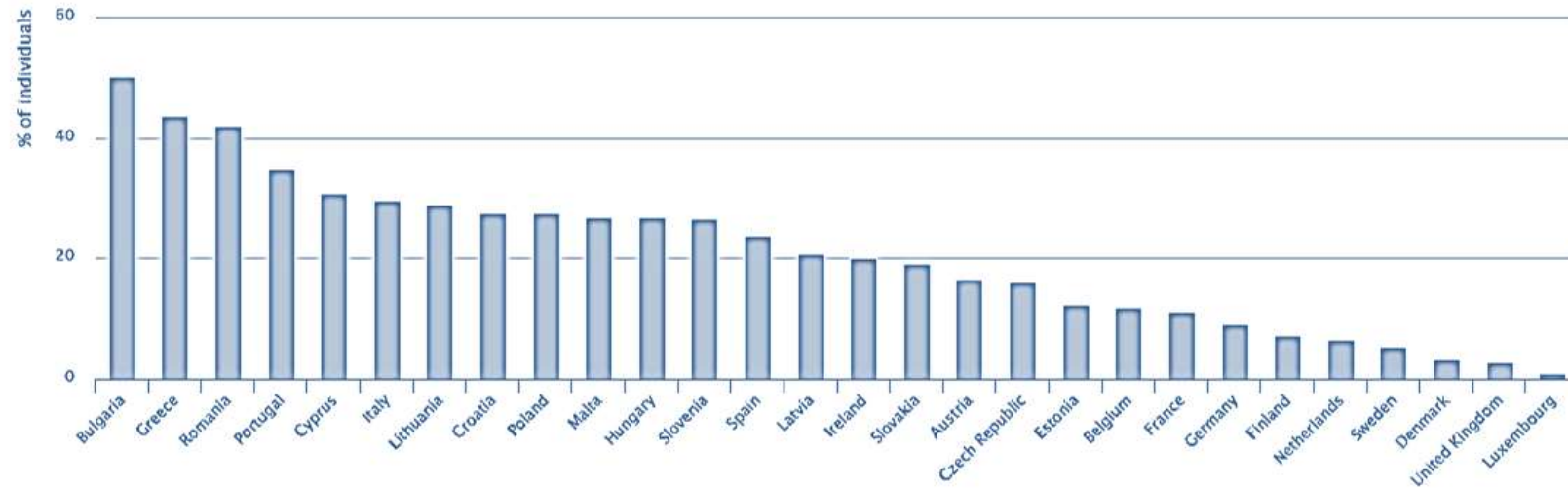


A considerable digital divide!

- Digital competences shortages

Digital skills

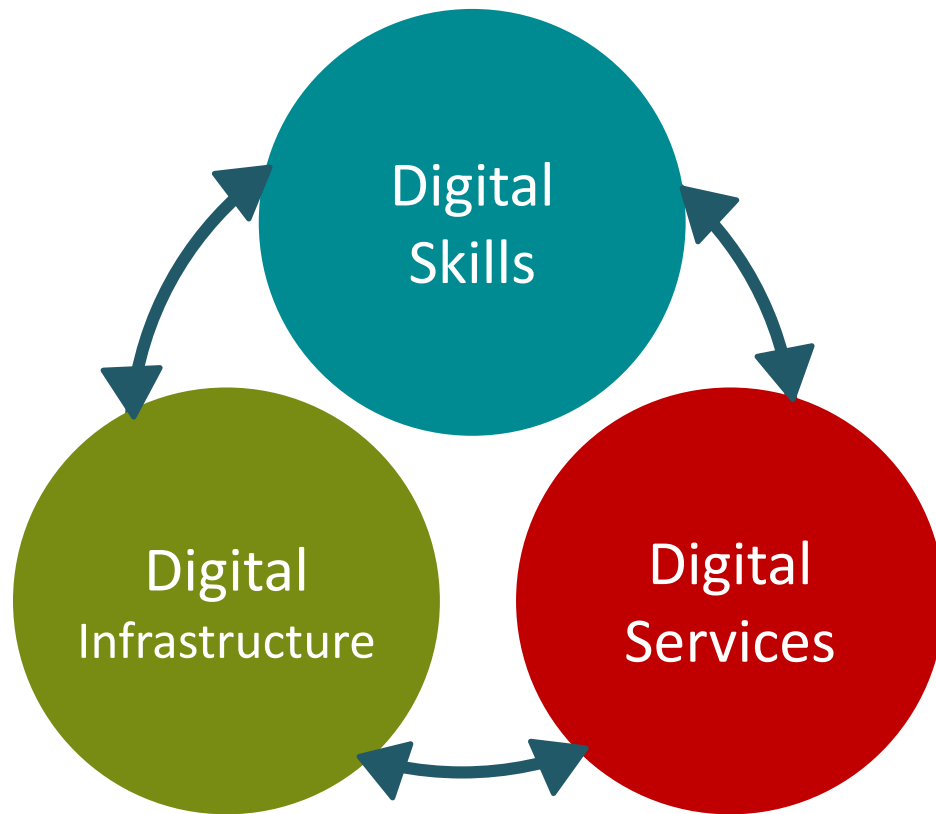
Individuals who have never used the internet (in sparsely populated areas – 2016)



Lack of digital skills!

Rural digital divide

Main aspects of rural digital divide



Structural disadvantages of rural areas:

- Demographic transformation
- Lack of business vision for enterprises
- Geographical barriers in terms of access to public services

Rural digital divide



- High upfront investment in net infrastructure
- High risks in investments
- Limited service uptake
- Limited **knowledge about potential profits of NGA**
among local actors Limited digital skills and competences
- Very slow development pace

Lack of know how
for improving the
condition



Rural digital divide

- Exchanging Know-How and transnational solutions!!!
 - Identify the problem
 - Develop common solutions
 - Test the solutions
 - Transnational guiding and policy measures!

Think and act transnational!

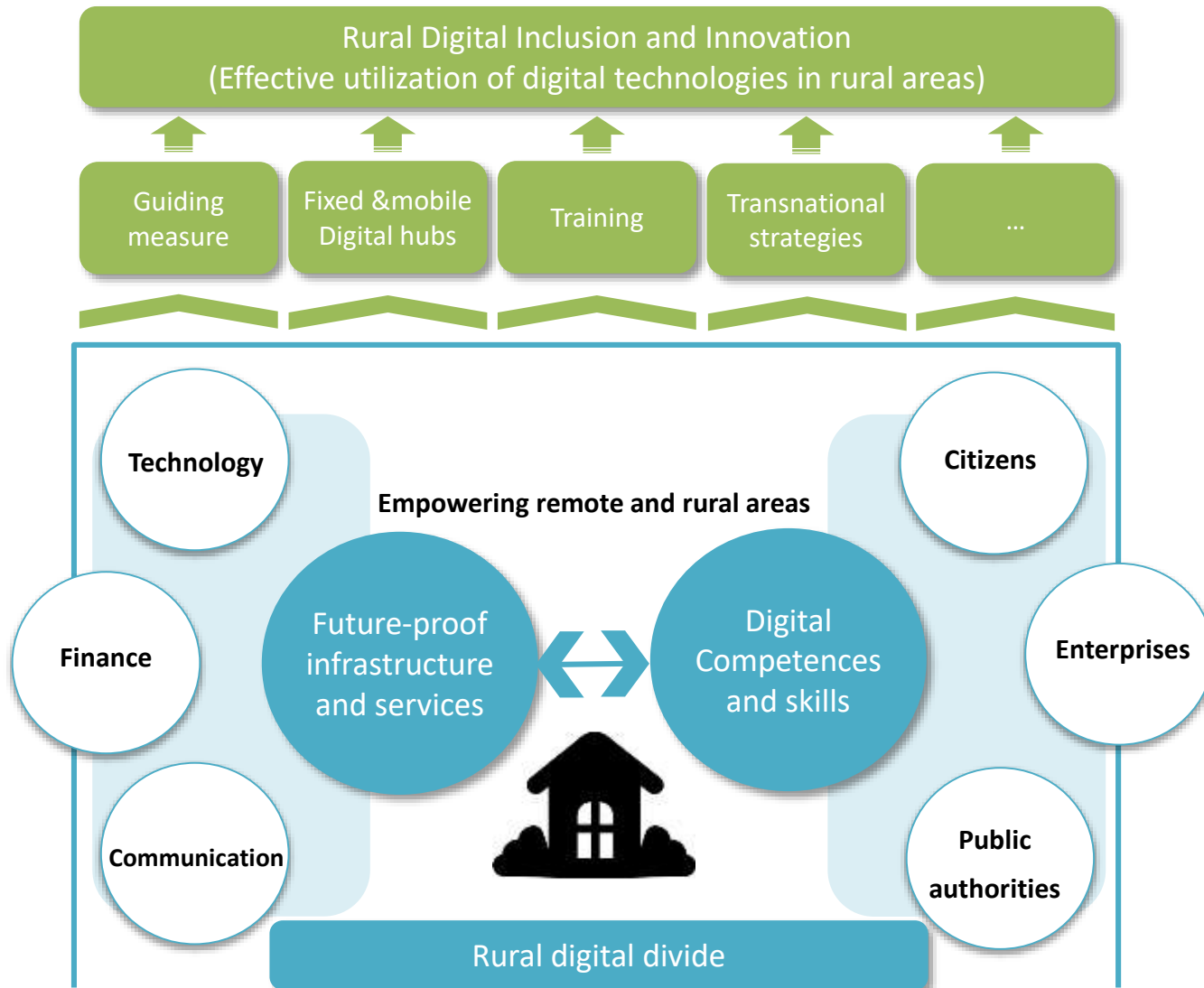
Lack of know how
for improving the
condition



The background of the slide features a close-up, artistic shot of numerous fiber optic cables. The cables are bundled together, and their ends are illuminated, creating a series of bright, out-of-focus light points and streaks that radiate across the frame. A solid teal rectangular overlay is positioned on the left side of the image, partially covering the cables. The text 'CORA – A transnational platform' is written in white, sans-serif font within this teal area.

CORA – A transnational platform

CORA concept



Exchanging Know how
and empowering rural
areas matter !

CORA challenge



CORA challenge

“

Muyters wants to invest in data networks

Flemish Minister of Innovation Philippe Muyters wants Flanders to invest in a high-speed fiber optic network. According to Muyters, this is necessary because digital data explodes and private investments lag behind. In order to realize his project, he wants to sit together with the telecom companies Telenet and Proximus. But Muyters does not rule out that Flanders will put fiber into the ground.

”

CORA aim

Aim

- ✓ Bridging digital divide and stimulating digital innovation in rural areas.
- ✓ Enabling local authorities to fill in the digital gaps in terms of advanced infrastructure, digital skills as well as digital public services &
- ✓ Empowering them to create an environment to facilitate digital innovation in rural areas.



CORA partnership



18 Partners from 7 EU member states:

- | Intercommunal Leiedal, BE – lead partner
- | atene KOM, DE
- | BürgerBreitbandNetz GmbH & Co. KG, DE
- | Vejle Kommune, DK
- | Middelfart Kommune, DK
- | Aalborg University, DK
- | University of Groningen, NL
- | Oldambt Municipality, NL
- | Groningen Internet Exchange Foundation, NL
- | Norddjurs Kommune, DK
- | Syddjurs Kommune, DK
- | Grue Kommune, NO
- | Hedmark fylkeskommune, NO
- | Eidskog Kommune, NO
- | Kongsvinger Kommune, NO
- | Värmland County Administrative Board, SE
- | Torsby Municipality, SE
- | University of Lincoln, UK

Interreg
North Sea Region
CORA

European Regional Development Fund



EUROPEAN UNION

CORA activities

Phase 1 → Knowledge exchange & development of guiding measures

Phase 2 → Testing the solutions

- Cross-border fibre sharing model
- Superfast wireless internet for rural communities and enterprises
- New digital public services for rural communities and businesses
- Fixed & mobile digital hub concepts
- Digital skills training in rural areas

Phase 3 → Evaluating the impacts

Phase 4 → Mainstreaming!



CORA expected outputs!



Improved level of digital inclusion and public digital skills (local communities and enterprises) in rural areas.

Some of the outcomes!

- Guiding measures for local and regional authorities to improve their digital environment
- Show cases and pilot activities (valuable practices)
- Rural digitalization transnational strategies
- Establishing a community around rural digital divide



Transnational Solution!

Fiber connectivity



Open fiber network

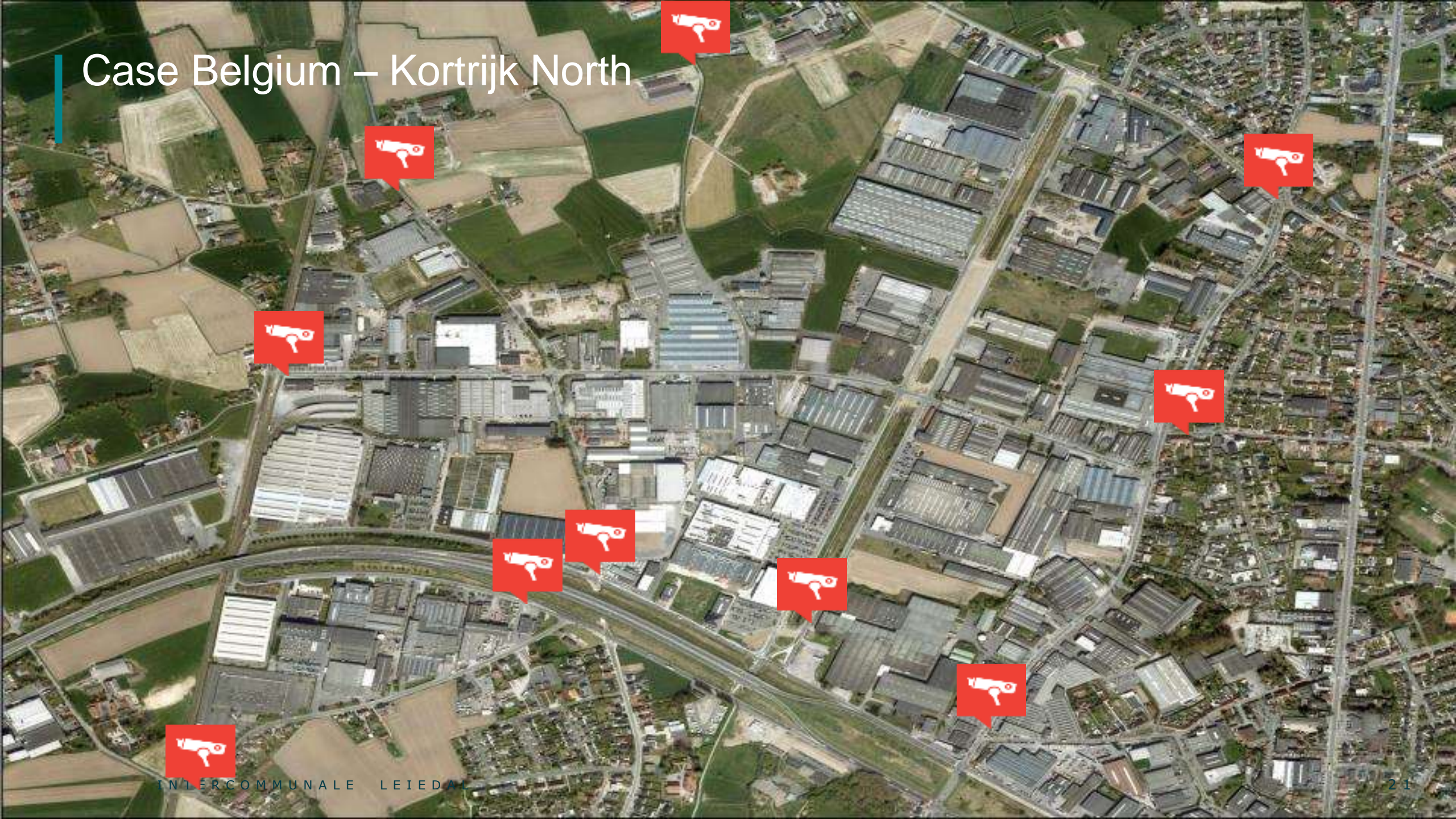
- Increased connectivity
- Shared costs
- Effects of scale
- Vendor lock-in
- Innovation hubs

Leiedal, Stad Kortrijk, KULAK, Fluvia, Gemeente Zwevegem





Case Belgium – Kortrijk North



Future proof business parks



- Cities close to innovation companies
- Infrastructure is important to park management
- Shared data center for data analysis
- Alternative business models for companies
- Creation of a smart region
- Wachtbuizen
- Connecting existing infrastructure
- Optimisation of digital service delivery

Future proof business parks

markt	1	Bus	avelgem	Zoek
-------	---	-----	---------	------



- **GIS analysis**
 - Overview fiber
 - Overview cameras
- **Cooperation model**
 - Connecting stakeholders
- **Big data analysis**
- **Open networks**

Follow CORA

Join the CORA community & follow us on Twitter

www.northsearegion.eu/cora

 Coraproject.eu

COnnecting **R**emote **A**reas
with digital infrastructure
and services



Thank you very much!
Contact



Peyman Khodabakhsh

Project Manager at atene KOM

Tel. +49 (0)30 60 98 990-45

P.khodabakhsh@atenekom.eu



Wouter Degadt

Coordinator of e-Governance
at Intercommunale Leiedal

Tel. +32 56 24 16 16

Wouter.Degadt@leiedal.be