



# THE SWEDISH LOCAL FIBER NETWORKS

» **Swedish Local Fibre Alliance is a non-profit-making trade association for network owners who are actively engaged in the development of a broadband infrastructure.**

Members are local fiber networks and companies which own or operate communications networks. It also has members in the operator and supplier areas of the electronic communications sector. Close contact between the different players in the sector is important in order to be able to offer end users a high quality fiber connection.

The purpose of the Swedish Local Fibre Alliance is to make it easier for its members to meet the challenges they face in all areas. The development of telemedicine, the expansion of the public sector to a 24-hour authority, the transformation into smart cities are some examples of areas that require access to an infrastructure with very high capacity.

The growth of mobile communications is also dependent on the existence of an optical fiber infrastructure which links the base stations together. The purpose of the Swedish Local Fibre Alliance is to help its members build a robust infrastructure for the benefit of the whole of Sweden. An infrastructure that is constructed essentially with optical fiber cable technology, but also includes other methods such as radio links. The networks of the organizations members are on the way to achieving nationwide coverage and consist of networks of all types, backbone networks, regional networks and access networks.

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**70%**

More than 70 percent  
can choose fiber

*“Notably, Sweden has the highest proportion of fibre connections outside Asia among OECD countries given the role municipal networks have played, underlying again the importance of competition to incumbent players in stimulating investment ”*

(OECD: Development of High-speed Networks and the Role of Municipal Networks)

### THE STORY OF THE SWEDISH LOCAL FIBER NETWORKS

Some local fiber networks started over 20 years ago. Today there are local fiber networks in approximately 70 percent of all municipalities in Sweden. They stand together for 50 percent of the fiber connections towards households and companies. In most cases the local fiber network is owned by the municipality.

### HUNDREDS OF DIFFERENT SERVICE PROVIDERS

Another important factor in the Swedish success story is the “open access networks”. It means that all service levels in the “value chain” are for hire and therefore both big and small operators can choose if they need to install their own equipment for infrastructure or not. You can see hundreds of new service providers the last ten years, from local to domestic. This is made possible by a unique trading system that Swedish Local Fibre Alliance provide for its members.

### MORE THAN 70 PERCENT CAN CHOOSE FIBER

More than 70 percent of all the Swedish households can choose a fiber access. This had not happen if not the local fiber networks had started for over 20 years ago. Sweden also has one of the lowest consumer prices of all countries when it comes to fixed broadband (at least 100 Mbit/s). The industry are doing well and have good profits even though Sweden are sparsely populated.



Swedish Local Fibre Alliance is a non-profit-making trade association for network owners who are actively engaged in the development of a broadband infrastructure. Visit our website [www.ssnf.org](http://www.ssnf.org)