

Press Release

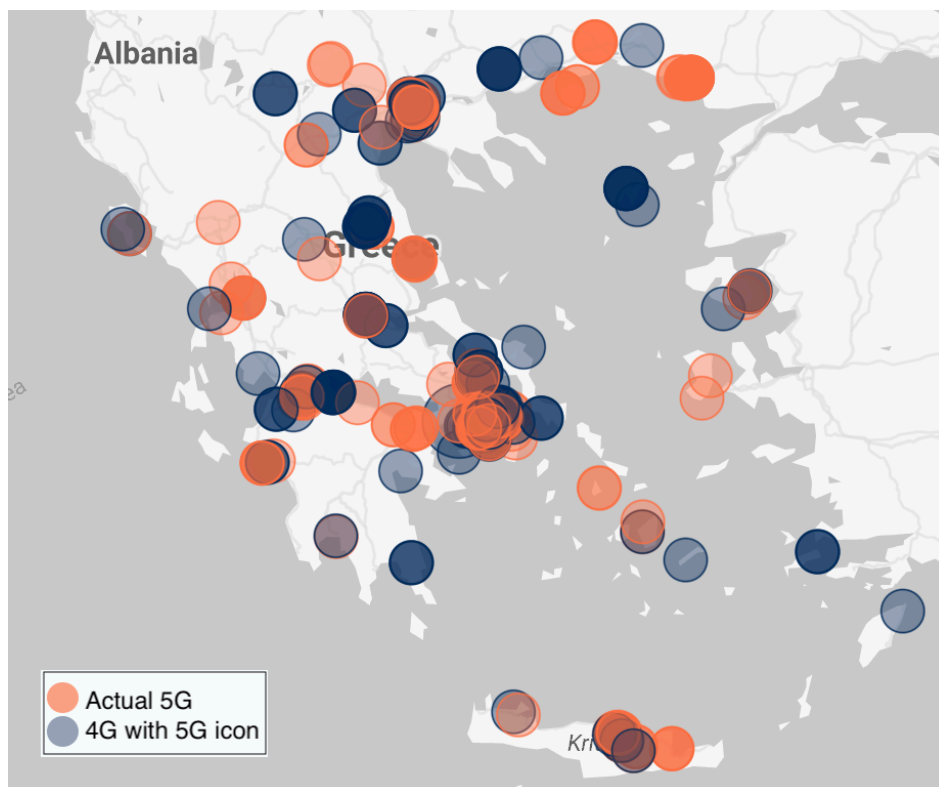
In Greece, 44% of "5G" is actually 4G

Tests carried out by a new app, [SignalTracker](#), show that when a mobile user in Greece sees the 5G icon, 44% of the time their phone is actually connected to 4G.

Most phones show a 5G icon when the base station which they are using has 5G equipment potentially available. The actual connection may be 4G or 5G.

Tests carried out by Greek mobile customers using the [SignalTracker](#) app demonstrate that 44% of speed tests where the 5G icon is shown are actually 4G, while 56% are genuine 5G. Tests in other countries have given similar results [\[i\]](#).

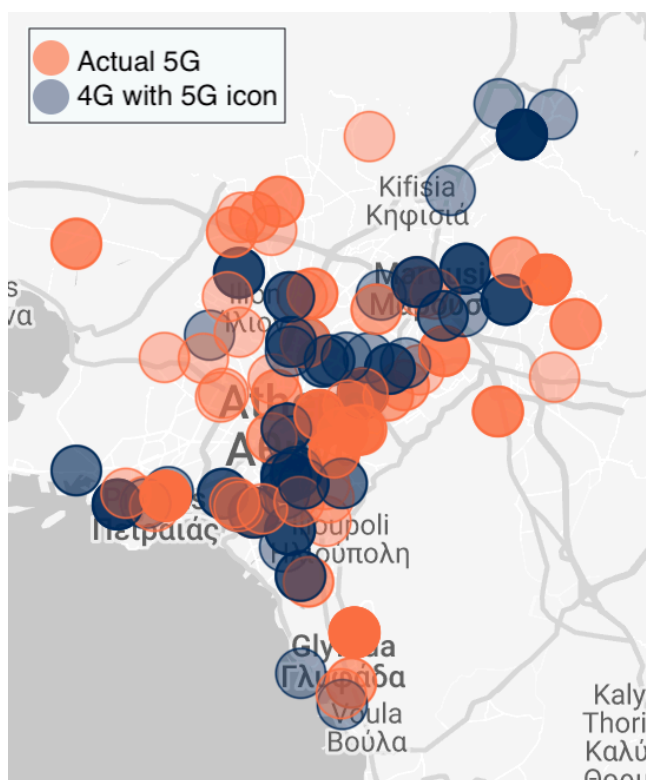
The map below shows genuine 5G connections [\[ii\]](#) in orange and 4G connections where the 5G icon is displayed in blue. These results come from all the Greek mobile networks.



Genuine 5G and icon-only 5G in Greece

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The map below shows detailed results for the Athens area:



Genuine 5G and icon-only 5G in the Athens region

Genuine 5G is 27 Mbps faster than icon-only connections, averaging 99 Mbps as against 72 Mbps in our tests.

Mobile technology	% of total tests showing 5G icon	Average download speed (Mbps)
5G	56%	99
4G with 5G icon	44%	72

Test results for all Greek operators when 5G icon is shown

Results for individual operators

Displaying the 5G icon when there is only a 4G connection is more common with some operators than others. For Vodafone, the 5G icon means genuine 5G 61% of the time. For Nova, 43% of 5G tests had a genuine 5G connection, but for Cosmote, it was only 32%. [iii] However, when Cosmote users were connected to genuine 5G they enjoyed the highest download speeds, as shown in the table below.

Mobile technology	Cosmote	Vodafone	Nova
5G	127.95	84.96	38.82
4G with 5G icon	83.58	76.40	42.28
4G	55.80	56.88	31.74

Average download speeds by technology and operator (Mbps) [iii]

The [SignalTracker](#) app shows whether you have an actual 5G connection, as indicated in the screenshot. It also gives the signal strength, bands used and download speed. You can save the results to compare networks and assess performance in multiple locations. The app is available from [Google Play](#).

SignalTracker is produced by [PolicyTracker](#) [iv], a company specialising in the wireless sector.

"Greece has some excellent 5G coverage," said PolicyTracker Managing Director, Martin Sims, "but right across the country it also has areas where customers may think they are getting 5G but it is actually 4G. The SignalTracker app can highlight this issue and help people choose the best network for them." said PolicyTracker Managing Director, Martin Sims. •

/ends

Images and videos

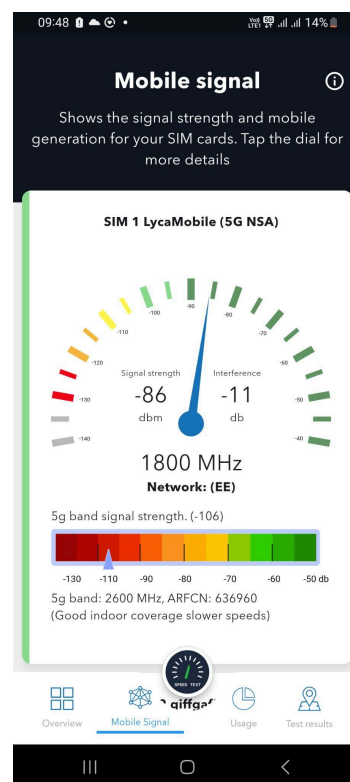
Higher resolution images are available at the links below:

- [Genuine 5G and icon-only 5G in Greece](#)
- [Genuine 5G and icon-only 5G in the Athens region](#)
- [Screenshot of SignalTracker app showing genuine 5G](#)

Please see also this [explanatory video](#) with further videos available [here](#).

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Notes for editors:

[i] About the tests

The figures quoted come from 760 tests carried out over the past two months using [SignalTracker](#). This is an Android app and is available on [Google Play](#).

Tests in other countries found a similar issue with the 5G icon being shown when there was only a 4G connection e.g. in the UK 40% of 5G connections were [actually 4G](#).

[SignalTracker](#) allows consumers to compare the service from different operators using metrics such as signal strength, speed and bands used. Users can save this information for different locations. See the [website](#) for more information.

The SignalTracker app can also provide this detailed spectrum usage data for commercial and regulatory organisations.

[ii] 5G Technology

Our definition of genuine 5G includes both 5G Non Standalone (5G NSA) and 5G Standalone (5G SA). 5G NSA connects to the existing 4G computer network using a 4G band but downloads data using 5G technology. The technology's next stage, 5G SA, does not use the 4G network but currently has limited deployment.

[iii] 2G tests were excluded from the table because of the small number of results

[iv] About PolicyTracker

SignalTracker is produced by [PolicyTracker](#), which provides news, research and training about spectrum policy.