

Digital Single Market

Connecting Europe Facility

The digital economy can improve services, expand choice and create employment. Access to digital service infrastructures and high-speed broadband internet are essential for the realization of the digital single market. Enabling its development could contribute an additional EUR 415 billion to EU GDP.



[1]

The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) supports trans-European networks and infrastructures in the sectors of transport, telecommunications and energy. The European Commission has proposed a series of guidelines for telecommunications covering the objectives and priorities for Digital Service Infrastructures (DSIs) and broadband networks.

Read the [regulation establishing the Connecting Europe Facility](#) [2].

The Connecting Europe Facility in Telecom

CEF Telecom has a budget of approximately 1 billion euros, out of which 870 million euros are dedicated to DSIs delivering networked cross-border services for citizens, businesses and public administrations. The rest is for [Broadband](#) [3] networks.

Supported projects contribute to:

- Improvements in the competitiveness of the European economy;
- Promotion of the interconnection and interoperability of national, regional and local networks;
- Access to such networks, thus supporting the development of a Digital Single Market.

Digital Service Infrastructures

CEF supports multiple DSI projects which contribute to improvements in the daily lives of Europeans through digital inclusion, the connectivity and interoperability of European digital services, and the development of a Digital Single Market.

Sector specific DSIs deploy complex trans-European digital services based upon mature technical and organisational solutions in diverse areas. The DSIs known as building blocks provide basic and re-usable digital services. Building blocks can be integrated into other DSI and IT projects and can be combined with each other.

Sector specific DSIs supported so far cover, for example, the areas of cyber security, eHealth, and online dispute resolution. The current building block DSIs include: eIdentification, eSignature, eInvoicing, eDelivery, and Automated Translation. Read the full [catalogue of digital services](#) [4].

Implementation of Digital Services Infrastructures

Funding opportunities are offered under CEF either via the procurement of services for the core components provided by the European Commission, or through calls for proposals (grants) to help link the national infrastructure in the Member States to the core components.

Last year four [calls for proposals](#) [5] were held. INEA (Innovation and Networks Executive Agency) has published the results of the call for proposals [2016-1](#) [6], [2016-2](#) [7], [2016-3](#) [8] and [2016-4](#) [7]. CEF's priorities and actions to be launched during 2017 have been identified in the annual Work Programme 2017.

2017 Calls for proposals

- The 2017-1 [call for proposals](#) [9] closed on 18 May. A CEF Telecom Virtual Info Day covering call 2017-1 was held on 28 February 2017.
- The 2017-2 [call for proposals](#) [10] opened on 8 May and will close on 21 September. It covers the areas of Cyber Security, eDelivery, eHealth and eProcurement. The CEF Telecom Virtual Info Day covering call 2017-2 was held on May 16 2017.
- The 2017-3 [call for proposals](#) [11] covering eInvoicing, eTranslation, Europeana and Public Open Data opened on 28 June. The call will close on 28 November. A [CEF Telecom Virtual Info Day](#) [12] covering call 2017-3 will be held on 12 September 2017.

Broadband

The [Broadband](#) [13] component of the programme seeks to contribute to the achievement of the

Digital Agenda [targets](#) [14] of all European households having access to internet connections of 30 Megabits per second (Mbps) and 50% of households to connections above 100 Mbps by 2020.

To achieve this CEF aims at facilitating an efficient flow of private and public investments to stimulate the deployment and modernisation of broadband networks. Across the whole multi-annual financial framework (2014-2020), 15% of the CEF budget shall be allocated to Broadband. At least one third of the Broadband projects financially supported under CEF shall aim at speeds above 100 Mbps.

Connecting Europe Facility in Telecoms

A full overview of CEF Telecom, including the building blocks and DSIs, is given on the [CEF Digital Single Web Portal](#) [15] which also is a platform for collaboration and discussion.

The calls for proposals are implemented by INEA on behalf of the Commission. More information on the calls is provided on [INEA's website](#) [16].

Team responsible

[Research Strategy and Programme Coordination \(Unit D.1\)](#) [17]

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[2] <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32013R1316>

[3] <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32014R0283>

[4] <https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/>

[5] <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility/cef-telecom/apply-funding/2016-cef-telecom-calls-proposals>

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[8] <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/news-events/newsroom/cef-telecom-eu-invests-almost-%E2%82%AC30-million-to-improve-digital-service>

[9] <http://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility/cef-telecom/apply-funding/2017-cef-telecom-calls-proposals>

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[11] <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/news-events/newsroom/connecting-europe-facility-cef-telecom-%E2%82%AC24-million-eu-funding-to-support-cross>

[12] <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/news-events/events/2017-3-cef-telecom-call-virtual-info-day>

[13] <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/broadband-europe>

[14] <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/broadband-strategy-policy>

[15] <https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/display/CEFDIGITAL/CEF+Digital+Home>

[16] <http://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility/cef-telecom>

[17] <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/content/research-strategy-and-programme-coordination-unit-d1>