ANNEX II

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ANNEX

CONNECTING EUROPE FACILITY (CEF)

TRANS-EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS

WORK PROGRAMME 2014

18 December 2014

Contents

1 INTRODUCTION

The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) was established by Regulation (EU) N° 1316/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013[1] (CEF Regulation). It determines the conditions, methods and procedures for providing European Union (EU) financial assistance to trans-European networks in order to support projects of common interest. It also establishes the breakdown of resources to be made available for the period 2014-2020. It covers the sectors of transport, telecommunications and energy.

In accordance with Article 17 of the CEF Regulation, the Commission has to adopt, by means of implementing acts, multiannual and annual work programmes for each of the sectors concerned. In doing so, the Commission must establish the selection and award criteria in line with objectives and priorities laid down in Articles 3 and 4 of the CEF Regulation and in Regulations (EU) No 1315/2013 and (EU) No 347/2013 or in the relevant guidelines for trans-European networks in the area of telecommunications infrastructure.

Guidelines for trans-European networks in the area of telecommunications infrastructure (CEF Telecom guidelines) were adopted on 11 March 2014[2] and cover the specific objectives and priorities as well as eligibility criteria for funding envisaged for broadband networks and digital service infrastructures.

The CEF Telecom guidelines define *'telecommunications infrastructures'* as both broadband networks and digital service infrastructures (DSIs). The latter are composed of *'core service platforms'* – central hubs which enable trans-European connectivity – and *'generic services'* which link national infrastructures to the core service platforms. Finally, *'building blocks'* are basic DSIs which enable the more complex digital service infrastructures to function properly.

This document constitutes the 2014 Work Programme (WP2014) for CEF Telecommunications. It outlines the general objectives and the priorities for actions to be launched in 2014 and explains how these can be tangibly achieved through the selected digital service infrastructure and broadband projects. It defines the scope of the programme as well as the envisaged level of funding, which will take the form of procurement, calls for proposals, financial instruments and other supporting actions.

For further information relating to this programme, please refer to the CEF Telecom website at https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/connecting-europe-facility.

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[1] Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing the Connecting Europe Facility, amending Regulation (EU) No 913/2010 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 680/2007 and (EC) No 67/2010.

[2] Regulation (EU) No 283/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 on guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks and repealing Decision No 1336/97/EC

2 CONTEXT, OBJECTIVES AND OVERALL APPROACH

2.1 Context

Our economies and societies are undergoing a profound transformation with the Internet becoming the dominant platform for communication, for business and for participation in social and political life. The trans-European availability of widespread and secure access to the Internet and digital services is essential if Europe is to reap the full benefits of this technological revolution.

The Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE)[3], one of the flagship initiatives of Europe 2020, has recognised that information and communication technology (ICT) and network connectivity form an indispensable basis for the development of our economies and society. It sets the objective of all Europeans having access to fast broadband speeds of 30Mbps, with at least half of European households subscribing to Internet connections above 100Mbps, by the end of the decade.

Europe needs to facilitate cross-border interaction between public administrations, businesses and citizens. It needs to stimulate the deployment and modernisation of high-speed internet networks. While many Member States have already introduced digital service infrastructures that drive competitiveness and markedly improve the daily lives of their citizens, there is currently a lack of interconnection and interoperability among such systems at European level.

The Connecting Europe Facility is aimed at supporting projects of common interest that address such bottlenecks and thereby contribute to the development of the Single Market, to European competitiveness, to social inclusion and to overall economic growth. By supporting the deployment of solid trans-European infrastructures based on mature technical and organisational solutions, CEF is expected to foster the deployment of networks and stimulate exchanges and collaboration with (and within) the public sector, across the EU. This will necessarily entail buy-in and active cooperation between administrations in different Member States building on cross-border technical interoperability.

2.2 Objectives, medium-term perspective and expected results

Objectives

The objectives of EU action as regards trans-European telecommunications networks for 2014 are outlined in the CEF Telecom guidelines. Article 3 thereof defines the specific objectives as pursuing:

–   economic growth and support to the completion and functioning of the internal market in support of the competitiveness of the European economy, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

–   improvements in daily life for citizens, businesses and administrations at every level through the promotion of broadband networks, interconnection and

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interoperability of national, regional and local broadband networks, as well as non-discriminatory access to such networks and digital inclusion.

It also lists the following operational priorities:

– interoperability, connectivity, sustainable deployment, operation and upgrading of trans-European digital service infrastructures, as well as coordination at European level;

– efficient flow of private and public investments to stimulate the deployment and modernisation of broadband networks with a view to contributing to achieving the broadband targets of the Digital Agenda for Europe.

Projects of common interest will, in particular:

– aim at the creation and/or enhancement of interoperable and, whenever possible, internationally compatible core service platforms, accompanied by generic services for digital service infrastructures;

– provide efficient investment vehicles for broadband networks, attract new categories of investors and project promoters, and encourage replicability of innovative projects and business models.

Expected results and the medium-term perspective

CEF Telecommunications is designed to deploy service infrastructures across the EU based on mature technical and organisational solutions to support exchanges and collaboration between citizens, businesses and public authorities. CEF focuses on providing functioning services which are ready to be deployed and which will be maintained over time, as opposed to developing pilots or technologies.

As this is the first year of the programme, it is useful to set out the longer-term vision in order to illustrate how actions carried out in 2014 will be followed by further actions over the coming years. The vision for CEF Telecommunications is that by 2020 it will deliver concrete benefits to citizens, businesses and administrations across the EU through mutually reinforcing and complementary digital service infrastructures and broadband networks, making the Single Market more effective and contributing to economic growth.

More specifically, this means for consumers that they will be able to benefit from lower costs, better and quicker access to public services, public data and cultural information in all Member States. The services will be safer, more secure and available in all EU languages, and new faster broadband networks will support digital inclusion.

For example this would mean that in 2020 a consumer in one Member State could securely access a public service of any other Member State (e.g. renew a driving licence) using his or her own national ID and preferred EU language.

For businesses a successful CEF programme would mean more opportunities and less red tape. It will become less time-consuming and less costly to interact with public authorities. Transactions will be interoperable, secure and trustworthy.

For example a small creative industry or business in a small urban area will have real-time access through an ultra-high-speed broadband connection to over 100 million cultural objects accessible through Europeana and public data from all across Europe.

For administrations, CEF Telecommunications is expected to deliver greater efficiency and reduced transaction costs across the different domains with all Member States participating fully in cross-border activities.

For example an EU municipality will, by 2020, be able to securely, quickly and effectively deploy its online services and connect with hundreds of other access points in all Member States.

As the above illustrations show, CEF Telecommunications projects of common interest aim to be mutually reinforcing and complementary. There are many potential linkages between the digital infrastructures; in particular, building blocks such as e-Identification, eAuthentication, eDelivery, eInvoicing or automated translation and cyber security enable the proper functioning of all the other DSIs listed in the CEF Telecom guidelines.

Furthermore, DSIs must be financially sustainable over time, where appropriate through funding sources other than CEF. Financial assistance should, wherever possible, be phased out over time and funding from sources other than CEF should be mobilised, where appropriate. Concrete scenarios as regards the continued financial sustainability of individual DSIs are described in Section 3.1 and further indications will be provided in the course of 2014.

The expected benefits and outcomes and the medium-term perspective are described in more detail for each individual project in Section 3. Benchmarks against which performance will be monitored are also provided. Great importance will be attached to the monitoring of performance and evaluation. Member States will need to be closely involved in the monitoring of projects of common interest to ensure quality control and ownership. This will be done through regular performance reviews whereby funding can be discontinued if clear performance targets are not met.

In the field of broadband, financial assistance will focus on attracting additional investments, promoting a multiplier effect, and so facilitating the efficient use of private and other public funds for investment. These results will be achieved by the use of financial instruments, which will ensure high leverage effect.

2.3 CEF Telecommunications Work Programme 2014

2.3.1 Eligibility criteria and approach

Eligibility criteria

According to Article 6 of the guidelines, actions contributing to projects of common interest in the field of digital service infrastructures must meet all the following criteria in order to be eligible for funding:

– reach sufficient maturity to be deployed, as proven in particular through successful piloting under programmes such as the EU programmes related to innovation and research;

–   contribute to EU policies and activities in support of the internal market;

–   create European added value and have a strategy, which must be updated when appropriate and the quality of which is to be demonstrated by a feasibility and cost-benefit assessment, together with planning for long-term sustainability, where appropriate through funding sources other than CEF;

–   comply with international and/or European standards or open specifications and orientations for interoperability, such as the European Interoperability Framework, and capitalise on existing solutions.

Actions in the field of broadband networks must meet all the following criteria:

–   make a significant contribution to the realisation of the targets of the Digital Agenda for Europe;

–   have sufficiently mature project development and preparation stages that are underpinned by effective implementation mechanisms;

–   address market failures or sub-optimal investment situations;

–   not lead to market distortions or crowding out of private investment;

–   use the technology which is deemed most suitable to address the needs of the area in question, taking into account geographic, social and economic factors based on objective criteria and in line with technological neutrality;

–   deploy the technology best suited to the specific project, while proposing the best balance between state of the art technologies in terms of data flow capacity, transmission security, network resilience, and cost efficiency;

–   have a high potential for replicability and/or be based on innovative business models.

Horizontal actions have to meet either of the following criteria in order to be eligible for funding:

–   prepare or support implementation actions in their deployment, governance and addressing existing or emerging implementation problems;

–   create new demand for digital service infrastructures.

Approach

The current work programme has taken the above objectives and eligibility criteria fully into account in setting the priorities for 2014. As this is the first year of the programme, it required a careful assessment and selection of projects. In particular, attention was paid to the technical and operational maturity of the projects and the expressed preferences, level of demand and preparation of the Member States as well as the extent to which the projects create EU-level added value.

Building blocks are given priority over other digital service infrastructures, since the former are a precondition for the latter. For instance, DSIs such as eIdentification and

eAuthentication are regarded as crucial building blocks underpinning all other services. Similarly, core platforms are given precedence over generic services.

Moreover, as a number of cross-border digital services implementing exchanges between European public administrations in support of EU policies already exist, the selected projects aim to capitalise on existing solutions implemented in the context of other European initiatives and avoid duplication of work.

The limited amount available for broadband in 2014 will be used to open the cross-sectorial CEF debt financial instrument towards broadband projects.

2.3.2   Work Programme content overview

The current work programme lists eight DSIs that are considered to meet the eligibility criteria in 2014. They are divided into three groups:

– Those for which funding is identified in the CEF Telecom guidelines: Europeana and Safer Internet. These are established and funding will ensure their continued operation in accordance with the legal obligations.

– Mature DSIs selected on the basis of the criteria established by the CEF Telecom guidelines: Open data, eIdentification and eAuthentication, eInvoicing and eDelivery.

– Those DSIs which are close to maturity but for which further preparatory work is required in 2014: Cyber security and Automated Translation. These will be closely monitored to regularly re-assess their readiness.

The work programme also provides for the support to broadband, in the form of financial instruments .

2.3.3   Indicative budget

The total estimated funding for the eight DSIs and broadband infrastructures for 2014 amounts to EUR 86 598 239 [4]. The table below provides indicative 2014 funding for the listed DSI projects and broadband infrastructures.

Budgeting can be yearly or multiannual. More detailed indications regarding the scope and duration of the funding are provided in Section 3.

Budgetary figures given in this work programme are indicative. Unless otherwise stated, final budgets may vary following the evaluation of proposals. The final figures may vary by up to 20% with respect to those indicated in this work programme for the budgeted activities.

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[4] Amounts are subject to internal transfer from budget lines 090301 and 090302 to budget line 090303. The total amount reflects the contribution from EFTA countries.

1. Overview of DSI and broadband projects and their indicative funding for 2014

Activity		Indicative funding 2014 (Euros)	Type of action	Budget line
Well established DSIs				09 03 03
Europeana	Core Platform	8 900 000	Call for proposals	
Safer Internet	Core Platform	2 000 000	Procurement	
	Generic Services	10 838 000	Call for proposals	
Mature DSIs				09 03 03
eIdentification and eSignature	Core Platform	8 000 000	Procurement	
	Generic Services	8 700 000	Call for proposals	
eDelivery	Core Platform	8 000 000	Procurement	
eInvoicing	Core Platform	9 000 000	Procurement	
Open Data	Core Platform	8 000 000	Procurement	
DSIs approaching maturity				09 03 03
Automated translation	Preparatory activities	4 000 000	Procurement	
Cyber security	Preparatory activities	2 000 000	Procurement	
Broadband infrastructures				
Financial instruments		16.479.450	Financial instruments	09 03 02
Programme Support Actions				
Studies		220 000	Procurement	09 03 03
Conferences		200 000	Procurement	09 03 03
Projects evaluations and reviews		260 789		09 03 03

2.3.4 **Implementation mechanisms**

In the area of digital service infrastructures, core service platforms will be implemented primarily by the European Union while generic services are to be implemented by the parties connecting to the relevant core service platform. Investments in broadband networks will be undertaken predominantly by the private sector, supported by a competitive and investment-friendly regulatory framework. Public support to broadband networks will be provided only where there is market failure or a sub-optimal investment situation.

In accordance with the CEF Telecom guidelines, actions contributing to projects of common interest in the field of digital service infrastructures will be supported by procurement and/or grants. Actions relating to broadband networks will be supported by financial instruments as defined in the CEF Regulation or a combination of financial instruments and grants from public sources other than the CEF, whether they are public sources of the Union or national. At least one third of the broadband projects financially supported under the Regulation must aim at speeds above 100Mbps. Finally, horizontal actions will be supported by procurement and/or grants.

EU financial support will take the form of:

– procurement, which will yield service contracts, and with the EU covering the totality of the cost and owning the results and the related intellectual property and exploitation rights;

– calls for proposals (grant agreements), whereby the EU provides a subsidy and the beneficiaries retain control over their results. The Regulation stipulates that EU funding under grants cannot exceed 75 % of the eligible cost. One exception is the core service platform of Europeana which will be the subject of a call for proposals with EU funding of up to 100 % of the total eligible cost, given the specificities of the target communities and the fact that the Commission cannot and does not intend to acquire the property and exploitation rights of the project's outputs.

– financial instruments (loans, guarantees, project bonds instrument) whereby financial contribution from CEF will cover parts of selected projects' credit risk.

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For these instruments, well-established procedures and templates are in place. More information is provided in Sections 3 and 4 below. Detailed information will be provided in the call documentation.

3 CONTENT OF THE CALLS FOR 2014

3.1 Digital Service Infrastructures

Well-established DSIs

3.1.1 <u>Europeana</u>

3.1.1.1 Background and rationale

With only around 20 % of Europe's cultural heritage digitised and the digitised resources lacking visibility, especially across national boundaries, more resources need to be brought online, and their cross-border use and take-up actively pursued. Digital resources of European heritage can serve as input for the Cultural and Creative Industries (CCIs), which account for around 4 % of EU jobs and GDP.

Launched as the common, multilingual access point to digital resources of European heritage in 2008, Europeana (www.europeana.eu) currently provides access to some 30 million objects from 2 300 institutions across Europe. To realise its full potential, the existing infrastructure must be maintained and enhanced, allowing more content holders to connect, developing the mechanisms, relationships and processes needed to distribute improved data to where users are, and enforcing standards in interoperability of data, rights and models to facilitate re-use.

With support from CEF, Europeana should develop into a widely recognised platform of services and resources, not only for metadata references, but also for access to cultural content, tools and technologies, projects and other services.

This action contributes to the implementation of a number of intertwined policies, including:

- ➢ Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE), which recognises digitisation and online accessibility as key areas for turning cultural heritage into an asset for individual users and an important building block for the digital economy.

- ➢ Commission Recommendation on the digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation (October 2011) and related Council Conclusions (EYC Council, May 2012), which challenge Member States to get more material online and ensure the long-term preservation of digital material.

- ➢ Europeana, which showcases the implementation of the recently revised Directive on the re-use of Public Sector Information (June 2013), bringing museums, libraries and archives within its scope.

3.1.1.2 Implementation 2014

Actions in 2014

Building on the existing infrastructure (www.europeana.eu), CEF support is intended for the maintenance and further deployment of Europeana's core service platform, and the related membership/partnership programmes. In particular, proposals should address the following issues:

- enhance data and aggregation infrastructure to ensure preservation of access to the content already accessible; improve data and metadata quality; enable the ingestion of new content, seeking to balance geographical spread; optimise interaction with aggregators;

- improve content distribution mechanisms (API, mobile mechanisms and apps) to maximise visibility, user engagement and take-up; develop partnerships with communities such as Wikipedia, Facebook or Pinterest to bring the digital content to places where users have the habit of going to accelerate discoverability and use;

- encourage new content holders to join Europeana, fostering their active involvement; seek representation of a broader range of stakeholders from distribution channels and re-user communities (in particular apps developers and CCIs) to engage new audiences;

- provide information on conditions for re-use, licensing services and/or direct access to the content, fostering the development of value-added services and the innovative re-use of cultural assets;

- support interaction with the stakeholder community by organising pan-European events and fora for discussion;

- develop strategies and business models to move towards self-sustainability.

The proposed consortium should involve appropriate organisations with the necessary complementary expertise to attain the above-mentioned outcomes.

The action should follow on seamlessly from the Europeana_v3 project, due to be completed in early 2015.

Benefits and expected outcomes

Efficient solutions are expected to be found for the trans-European accessibility of digital resources of European heritage, to increase their cross-border visibility, use and take-up, and to help realise their full economic potential.

This is a multi-stakeholder challenge, with wide-ranging benefits. Connecting Europe by making culture available for everyone enables users (whether citizens, students or researchers) to find relevant material from all across Europe. Standardising and making cultural resources held by Europe's memory organisations internet-friendly and exposing their collections to the wider world offers CCIs and developers opportunities to feed on a pan-European wealth of digitised resources for developing new products and services (e.g. educational content, documentaries, tourism applications, games, animations or

design tools), adding value to the collections and providing new user experiences, in full compliance with copyright law.

Finally, participation in Europeana offers cost savings for cultural institutions (on digitisation, ICT expenditure, know-how/cooperation) and promotes cultural tourism (better access to heritage information attracts more travellers and influences length of stay and related expenditure).

The overall goal is to make 100 million objects accessible through Europeana by 2020, which however depends on digitisation investments by Member States, and to increase usage.

Operation and stakeholder involvement

As a distributed trans-European digital service infrastructure, Europeana is a joint effort by Europe's cultural institutions, offering central services for access, search and re-use. The current central services are run by the Europeana Foundation in cooperation with a number of technology partners and aggregators.

The *Recommendation on the digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation*[5] ('the Recommendation') calls upon Member States to contribute to the further development of Europeana. The *Member States Expert Group on Digitisation and Digital Preservation*, which assists the Commission in monitoring progress with the implementation of the Recommendation, provides a forum for involvement of the Member States and their cultural institutions.

Financial sustainability

To complement CEF funding, Europeana will explore opportunities and develop business models to progressively raise revenues, e.g. through sponsorship, premium memberships, licensing services for developers of new services or fundraising.

CEF funding for Europeana is further complemented by contributions in kind from the cultural institutions themselves for aggregation and dissemination activities, such as mapping data to requested formats, resolving IPR and rights labelling issues or participating in workshops/dissemination events.

Type of financial support

It is intended to fund one multi-beneficiary grant in support of the Europeana core service platform for a minimum duration of one year. The funding rate is up to 100 % of eligible costs.

Actions envisaged beyond 2014

Regulation (EU)259/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on guidelines for trans-European networks in the area of telecommunications infrastructure and repealing Decision No 1336/97/EC[6] provides that continuity of funding for Europeana,

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[5]   OJ L 283, 29.10.2011, p. 39.

[6]   OJ L 86, 21. 03.2014, p. 14

as a well-established DSI which has already demonstrated its clear added value of action at European level, should be ensured in the first years of this financial framework in order to allow for uninterrupted and successful delivery of service at the same level as provided for under the previous funding scheme. On 10 May 2012, the Council further underlined the vital importance of ensuring long-term viability of Europeana, including in terms of funding.

It is therefore intended to provide continued support for the core service platform of the Europeana DSI also in the years 2015 and 2016, taking into account budget availability, progress towards sustainability and the resulting actual needs for the years of operation covered by such support. Best endeavours will be made to set up alternative funding streams as early as 2015.

Title:	Access to digital resources of European heritage ('Europeana')
Indicative total budget for 2014:	EUR 8.9 million
Type of financial support:	One multi-beneficiary grant in support of the Europeana core service platform
Funding rate:	100% of eligible costs
Duration of the action:	One year minimum
Indicative publication date (where applicable):	Q2 2014
Further conditions:	Work needs to build on the existing Europeana infrastructure (www.europeana.eu) and follow on seamlessly from the Europeana_v3 project.

3.1.2 Safer Internet

3.1.2.1 Background and rationale

The Internet has become the natural playground and place of encounter, learning and creativity for young people. Children are going online at an ever younger age on a diverse range of interconnected and mobile devices, often without adult supervision. As a group, children have specific needs and vulnerabilities: they need accessible and appropriate content and services; adequate protection from harmful content, contact and conduct; and the digital skills to use the Internet and other online technologies to their advantage, safely and responsibly.

This is a well-established, multi-stakeholder domain, involving the public sector, technology and media industry and civil society (mainly NGOs). The overall objective is to deploy services that help make the Internet a trusted environment for children through actions that empower and protect them online. More specifically, the planned infrastructure will provide a platform to share resources, services and practices between national Safer Internet Centres (SICs) and their users, including industry.

3.1.2.2 Implementation 2014

Actions in 2014

The specific objective is to deploy services that will support both access to and delivery of child-appropriate and child-safety related content and resources, and the building of databases to support helpline and hotline transactions. Content and resources will be developed both at European and national levels and shared between SICs through the platform.

This includes the launch and operation of a trans-European core platform for creating and sharing resources and services by SICs, and for providing an entry point for the public to access information on how children can benefit from the opportunities of the Internet and surf safely online.

All services will be accessed and delivered either at EU level or via interoperable national SICs, which will form part of the initial platform and infrastructure.

The main tasks include:

1) Technical tasks:
     i.   Setting-up and operation of a platform providing a single entry point to online tools, resources and repositories for SICs to: develop, assess and exchange good practices, materials and services in support of promoting a better and safer Internet for children; compile statistics at European level to measure the impact of activities carried out by SICs; facilitate and support youth participation by incorporating a safe, dedicated space for youth on the platform;
     ii. Development of a user-friendly interface where the public can access information about issues related to children's use of online technologies and services, and access white lists of quality content dedicated for children;
     iii. Building of databases for gathering data on child sexual abuse images/videos that will enhance hotlines' capacity to analyse, identify and remove child sexual abuse material and support transactions between helplines for analysing and managing reports.
2) Support and training:
     i.   Support capacity building and provide training actions for national SICs;
     ii. Provide regular exchanges of information and good practices for SICs, and draw up guidelines on agreed approaches.
3) Service administration and stakeholder engagement:
     i.   Daily operation and administration of the platform, including hosting and management of the public interface;
     ii. Establishment of a governance structure for the services;
     iii. Support interaction with the stakeholder community by organising pan-European events and fora for discussion.

Benefits and expected outcomes

Citizens are the ultimate beneficiaries, especially children, who will have better skills enabling them to make positive use of online technologies, quality and choice of content and active experiences specifically designed for them, supported by greater protection. Parents, grandparents, teachers and social workers, who often encounter the most

vulnerable children, are key intermediaries who will be able to have a higher level of understanding and trust in the way in which content and services are accessed and used by children. Industry stands to benefit from increased market opportunities for content and for greater impact of awareness campaigns, and from cross-border provision of associated services (helplines, hotlines) and child-rated content.

The platform is expected to support hotlines and helplines in all EU Member States and the volume of reports of illegal child sexual abuse material processed by the hotlines is expected to exceed 400 000 per year.

Operation and stakeholder involvement

The platform will build on existing functions with regard to the transactions between hotlines; maintenance of shared data and image files, support databases analysing helpline transactions and access to shared resources and repositories. It will also link to other established platforms for learning resources, in order to enhance the availability and use of e-Safety material for children.

While Member States will be actively involved in the implementation and deployment process, to ensure and speed up widespread acceptance and use, the core platform will be operated by a contractor (or consortium) tasked by the Commission with providing the single entry point to online tools and resources.

The governance structure will reflect the roles of Member States, industry, and the Commission. In the short term, as operational capacity is developed, this requirement will be met through an executive group from the SICs, their coordinating networks/associations, and the Commission, with input from a Member States' expert group set up to monitor the policy indicators resulting from the ongoing benchmarking study tasked by the Commission services.

Financial sustainability

In the short term the CEF programme is expected to fully fund the core service platform and to co-fund the related generic services. Direct CEF funding is expected to progressively decrease as from 2017, although the long-term financial sustainability will to some extent depend on EU funding because it is unlikely that the concerted European effort for cross-border sharing of resources and practices will happen without this. Also, EU funding at a certain level will offer the public a benchmark of objectivity and trustworthiness.

Additional funding could take the form of in-kind services as well as cash contributions from public and private sector partners. Three major approaches could be considered: 1) structural approach targeting specific companies, asking them how they could earmark some revenue to be injected into certain activities to be developed by the platform; 2) project-based activities organised within public-private partnerships and based on existing models; 3) consultancy-based services, whereby validation services could be offered on a pricing basis.

Strategies and business models as regards sustainability will be developed in the course of 2014/2015.

Actions envisaged beyond 2014

Regulation (EU)259/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on guidelines for trans-European networks in the area of telecommunications infrastructure and

repealing Decision No 1336/97/EC[1] provides that continuity of funding for Safer Internet for Children, as a well-established DSI which has already demonstrated its clear added value at European level, should be ensured in the first years of this financial framework in order to allow for uninterrupted and successful delivery of service at the same level as provided for under the previous funding scheme.

It is therefore intended to provide continued support in 2015 and 2016, taking into account budget availability, progress towards self-sustainability and the resulting actual needs for the years of operation covered by such support.

Title: SAFER INTERNET SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE – FOR MAKING A BETTER AND SAFER INTERNET FOR CHILDREN

Indicative total budget for 2014: EUR 2.0 million

Type of financial support: public procurement, single contract, 100 % funding

Duration of the action: 18 months

Indicative publication date (where applicable): Q2 2014

3.1.2.3 Safer Internet Generic Services

The specific objective is to set up and expand national platforms to run a range of Safer Internet services providing:

1. An awareness centre for informing children, their parents and teachers about better and safer use of the Internet, building on enhanced digital resource centres (repositories), from which specific awareness toolkits and services will be adapted and deployed, in cooperation with third parties (schools, industry).

    More specifically the awareness centre should:

    i. devise informative awareness campaigns and resources targeting children, parents, grandparents, teachers and social workers on how to give children the digital skills and tools they need to take advantage of the Internet and to navigate safely online, promoting awareness of parents and children about online quality content and experiences, and make the associated resources available through their services;

    ii. Evaluate the impact of the awareness campaigns on the target groups and provide qualitative and quantitative feedback at European level through the core service platform;

    iii. Establish and maintain partnerships and promote dialogue and exchange of information with key players (government agencies, ISPs, user organisations, education stakeholders) at national level.

2. Online helpline services for reporting and dealing with harmful contact (grooming), conduct (cyberbullying) and content.

    More specifically, helpline services should:

    i. offer one-to-one conversations, online and/or by telephone, with trained helpers in real time to give advice and support to parents and children on issues related to their use of online technologies;

ii.　draw up operating guidelines in compliance with national law, including data protection rules;

iii.　ensure that reporting mechanisms are interoperable both with the core platform and with reporting via service providers such as Social Networking Services;

iv.　provide qualitative and quantitative feedback at European level through the core service platform.

3. A hotline for receiving and managing reports and data on online illegal child sexual abuse.

More specifically, hotline services should:

i.　establish and/or operate a hotline to receive information from the public relating to illegal content in respect of child pornography, racism and xenophobia;

ii.　draw up a manual of procedures in cooperation with law enforcement authorities and in accordance with best practice guidelines;

iii.　undertake a preliminary assessment of the legality of the content reported and trace its origin, and forward the report to the appropriate body for action (ISP, the police or corresponding hotline) including systematic notice to the host provider of content assessed as child pornography;

iv.　ensure compatibility with data formats of the core platform and provide statistics required for measuring the impact and effectiveness of the network.

The three components of the SIC will be expected to cooperate by setting up a single Advisory Board with national stakeholders and actively contribute to the implementation of a European approach by sharing good practices and resources and taking part in European-level events.

Title: SAFER INTERNET GENERIC SERVICES – FOR MAKING A BETTER AND SAFER INTERNET FOR CHILDREN

Indicative total budget for 2014: EUR 10 838 000

Type of financial support: Call for proposals, multiple grants, 50 % funding

Duration of the action: 18 months

Indicative publication date (where applicable): Q2 2014

Mature DSIs

3.1.3 Electronic identification and authentication — eIdentificantion and eSignature

3.1.3.1 Background and rationale

Given the steadily growing importance of the Internet in society and for the economy, and with regard to the risk of identity theft and misuse of personal information, legally binding transactions presuppose secure signatures (eSignature) and for access secure electronic identities (eID). The provision of such services will benefit from a clear regulatory framework which should be in place shortly. The eIDAS proposal is currently being negotiated in the European Parliament and the Council.

More than twenty European countries currently have eID systems in place. These systems protect electronic services mostly pertaining to the public sector, but in some cases also covering commercial applications. They all have varying security mechanisms for identification and authentication, and are based on different philosophies which lack cross-border recognition and validation, thereby fragmenting the Single Market.

eSignature systems are likewise used in a majority of countries. The degree of cross-border usage in the EU, however, is relatively low despite increasing demand and a legal obligation for Member States to accept eSignatures from other Member States.

Both eID and eSignature are building block DSIs needed in key application domains and policy contexts. The provision of nearly all online public-sector services requires some form of identification and authentication. They therefore constitute key building blocks for European core service platforms.

The eID service is based on the results of the CIP (Competitiveness and Innovation Programme) project known as STORK. The STORK 2.0 project provides the same solution pending adoption of the eIDAS regulation by the EU legislators that may set new boundary conditions. The eSignature service, currently financed by the ISA interoperability solutions programme, provides open source tools for Member States to use at national level with some basic support by DG MARKT for implementers and management. It is used by the points of single contact and based on trusted lists. The eSignature service also takes into account the experiences of the CIP projects in particular and will together with the eID service align with results achieved by the eSENS large-scale project.

The eID and eSignature services can be deployed also to support operational large scale trans-European systems in the domain of EU Customs. A platform based on STORK 2.0 technology will be deployed in the Uniform User Management and Digital Signatures project under the Union Customs Code programme.

3.1.3.2 Implementation 2014

Actions in 2014

The immediate objective of the actions launched in 2014 is to establish a solid technical and organisational infrastructure for both services, which are generic by design and

suitable for re-use in many different contexts, providing an initial set of facilities and then extending them gradually. The implementation of the services will be fully in line with the eIDAS regulation and will contribute a smooth implementation thereof.

The aim is to set up, launch, maintain and operate the main components of the platform to enable large-scale, autonomous operation of the core service platforms. Tools and solutions resulting from previous programmes e.g. the CIP project STORK for eID and the eSignature service currently financed by the ISA programme will be used and enhanced over time. Upgrades and extensions in terms of coverage, performance and functionality will be necessary as the scale of the operation grows and additional Member States, providers and user organisations subscribe to the services.

A. The main tasks for the launch and operation of the eID and eSignature core service platforms include:

1) Technical tasks:

i. implementation, testing and open-source publishing of software components and related specifications, including maintenance and upgrading, in collaboration with standardisation bodies;

ii. development and operation of a testing and reference centre to validate third parties' implementation of the common specifications, and check their interoperability;

2) Support and training:

i. support through helpdesks and emergency hotlines;

ii. dissemination and training actions for actual and prospective users, both public and private sectors;

iii. technical training and remote support for software companies and other parties who intend to integrate the service within their own products or services;

3) Service administration and stakeholder engagement:

i. day-to-day administration and operation of the services (e.g. for eSignature Commission central list of pointers to Member State Trusted Lists) ; provision of statistics on the use of the services for the purpose of European statistics as well as other information on the functioning of the service, inquiries and complaints, bug reports and change requests, etc.;

ii. support the Commission, the Member States and the stakeholder community at large in steering the extension of the service and monitoring its functional and geographical deployment;

iii. Support interaction with the stakeholder community by organising pan-European events and fora for discussion.

B. Under the 2014 budget, generic services will be supported through grants with the following objectives:

i. setting-up of Pan-European Proxy Services at national level in order to link the national eID service to the core platform. Proposals should be composed of at least one entity from one Member State.

ii. operation of Pan-European Proxy Services at national level in order to guarantee the availability of the service for the first years of operation. Proposals should be composed of at least one entity from one Member State.

iii. Integration in an existing online platform (e.g. ERASMUS registration of students) of this eID DSI in order to enable citizens from any Member State to use its national eID to access a public service. Proposals should be composed of at least ten entities from one Member State.

Benefits and expected outcomes

The availability of pan-European interoperable eID will greatly facilitate the access of citizens and businesses to public and private services across borders throughout the European Union. For example, an EU citizen will be able to access a public service of another Member State using his or her own national means of identification. It will also help to improve the security of online transactions and contribute to the prevention of identity theft or fraud.

The provision of a cross-border eSignature validation platform will benefit public administrations by allowing them to meet the increasing demand and legal obligations whereby Member States have to mutually accept eSignatures. It will be crucial for businesses in allowing secure interactions across borders.

Operation and stakeholder involvement

At the start of the programme, the Commission services will be in charge of the setting-up, operation and maintenance work. At the same time Member States will play an active role in the implementation and deployment process, in particular to facilitate and accelerate widespread acceptance and use. The governance group will initially consist of representatives of the Member States, a balanced cross-section of service providers, and the relevant Commission services. The group will be progressively extended to include standardisation bodies and additional stakeholders, in particular in relation to specific policies or application domains.

For the DSI to be successful, Member States need to actively take part in the implementation of the eID and eSignature platforms, promote their use nationally as well as connect to and make use of the platforms themselves whenever relevant, also at own expense.

Financial sustainability

In the short to medium term the CEF programme is expected to fully fund the core service platforms and to support the related generic services, in order to stimulate take-up. Depending on the actual deployment and use of the services, direct CEF funding is expected to decrease, possibly as of 2017, and eventually drop to zero.

In regard to long-term sustainability, two scenarios are presently being considered.

In the first scenario, these Building Blocks DSIs would be paid for through contributions from the DSIs using the services. This would apply to both DSIs funded via the CEF and to DSIs not funded by the CEF, e.g. DSIs run by a Commission service.

In the second scenario, the operational costs of the core service platforms would be covered by transactional revenues, with the possible addition of an annual service charge for the gateways. As with the previous scenario, the more DSIs use the service, the lower the cost for a given DSI and its users.

Depending on the governance set-up finally chosen, the services could generate revenues exceeding the cost of operation by charging private sector users.

Strategies and business models as regards sustainability will be developed in the course of 2014/2015.

Type of financial support

The operation of the core service platforms will be procured, with an indicative budget of EUR 8 million for a contract duration of four years.

In 2014, generic services will be funded through grants, for a total budget of EUR 8.7 million. Actions under B i) and iii) above will have a maximum duration of one year. Action under B ii) will have a maximum duration of three years. All generic services will be funded via lump sums of a maximum of EUR 50 000 per legal entity per year per action. The exact amount will be specified in the call text.

Actions envisaged beyond 2014

In 2014, funding has been foreseen for the migration of the eID and eSignature software and service components to consolidated deployable versions established by the eSENS Large Scale Pilot project in 2016 or earlier.

Subject to the availability of sufficient financial resources, additional grants may be provided for generic services in 2016 or 2017 if the uptake is considered too low to ensure continuous usage and financial sustainability.

Core platform

Title: Electronic identification and authentication — eIdentification and eSignature
Indicative total budget for 2014: EUR 8 million
Type of financial support: procurement
Duration of the action: 4 years

Generic services

Title: Electronic identification and authentication — eIdentification and eSignature
Indicative total budget for 2014: EUR 8 700 000
Type of financial support: grants
Duration of the action: 2014-2015

3.1.4 Electronic delivery of documents — eDelivery

3.1.4.1 Background and rationale

eDelivery can be defined as delivery of electronic documents enabling transactional public services. Examples are requests for legal assistance, payment orders, the submission of tenders in public procurement, and the submission of eInvoices. Technically, eDelivery defines an interoperability layer enabling vendor-independent, secure and traceable exchange of documents between public administrations, businesses and citizens, across national borders and administrative and/or application domains.

The EU is currently fragmented due to multiple administrative and technical set-ups at national level but also because of the lack of widely accepted standards and interoperable platforms at European level. This situation hampers the secure exchange of information across borders and sectors, thus increasing complexity and costs.

The overall objective of the eDelivery building block DSI is to establish a comprehensive and yet flexible infrastructure meeting the requirements of cross-border exchanges between heterogeneous e-government applications. This common transport infrastructure will leverage on previous work under the CIP and ISA programmes, and combine and extend their results.

eDelivery is expected to become a backbone for the delivery of cross-border public services, making it possible for administrations across the EU to quickly and effectively deploy and connect their online services.

3.1.4.2 Implementation 2014

Actions in 2014

The immediate technical objective is to enhance and integrate the software specifications and components resulting from previous CIP and ISA projects. eDelivery is a building block in a production service currently operational for eInvoicing within the OpenPEPPOL framework. Integration work is ongoing under the CIP Large Scale Pilot project e-SENS, which covers eDelivery solutions from the Large Scale Pilot projects PEPPOL and SPOCS and a solution from eCodex. The work aims to unify the eDelivery protocols used in different CIP projects.

The overall goal is to ensure that official electronic documents can be exchanged seamlessly across the EU, by setting up, launching, maintaining and operating the core components of the eDelivery platform to enable a large-scale, autonomous operation of this building block. The aim is to progressively cover all the Member States and integrate them within a robust service infrastructure.

Work undertaken at the start of the programme will address the specific needs of eDelivery within eInvoicing and eProcurement. However, the common specifications are being extended to match a broader range of policy contexts. This will leverage the work done in eCODEX in collaboration with CIPA and ongoing work in eSENS.

The main tasks for the launch and operation of the eDelivery Core Service Platform include:

1) Technical tasks:

   i.   implementation, testing and open-source publishing of software components and related specifications in collaboration with standardisation bodies;

   ii. development and operation of a testing and reference centre to validate third parties' implementation of the common specifications, and their interoperability;

2) Support and training:

   i.   support to the providers of access points through a helpdesk;

   ii. dissemination and training actions for actual and prospective users, both public and private sector, including national authorities and administrations;

   iii. technical training and remote support for software companies and other parties who intend to integrate the service within their own products;

3) Service administration and stakeholder engagement:

   i.   day-to-day administration and operation; provision of statistics on the use of the services for the purpose of European statistics as well as other information on the functioning of the service, inquiries and complaints, bug reports and change requests, etc.;

   ii. support the Commission, the Member States and the stakeholder community at large in steering the extension of the service and monitoring its functional and geographical deployment;

   iii. Support interaction with the stakeholder community by organising pan-European events and fora for discussion.

The convergence of the technical and organisational components will be done stepwise. The first eDelivery service to migrate to the CEF core service platform is the PEPPOL Service Metadata Locator (SML). The Service Metadata Publisher (SMP) and the SML will be extended to support additional parameters that will be used during the migration process. This includes extending the metadata stored in the SMP to other document types and protocols. In addition, a conformance testing environment will be put in place to allow developers to check their software components against a reference implementation.

Benefits and expected outcomes

eDelivery is expected to become a backbone for the delivery of cross-border public services, making it possible for administrations across the EU to quickly and effectively deploy and connect online services for the benefit of businesses and citizens in accordance with the eIDAS regulation.

The primary beneficiaries are the Member State authorities and institutions operating or requiring the operation of an eDelivery service across a range of public services, e.g. health, procurement, business mobility or justice, and will make use of eDelivery facilities for their cross-border exchanges and collaborations.

eDelivery will likewise benefit businesses including SMEs, one of the first examples being e-procurement, where the aim is to enable businesses to deal electronically with any EU public sector buyer. Companies and citizens will benefit from more effective online services across the EU.

The service should reach over 1 000 000 transactions per month by 2015. By the end of a four-year period, the service is expected to encompass access points in all EU Member States and EEA countries.

Operation and stakeholder involvement

At the start of the programme, the Commission services will be in charge of the setting-up, operation and maintenance work in collaboration with other Commission services. At the same time, Member States will play an active role in the implementation and deployment process, in particular to facilitate and accelerate widespread acceptance and use.

The governance group will initially consist of representatives of the Member States, the relevant stakeholders, including possibly existing Large Scale Pilot communities, and the relevant Commission services. The group will be progressively extended to include standardisation bodies and additional stakeholders, in particular in relation to specific policy or application domains.

For the DSI to be successful, Member States need to actively take part in the implementation of the eDelivery platform, promote its use nationally as well as connect to and make use of the platform themselves whenever relevant, also at own expense.

Sustainability

In the short to medium term the CEF programme is expected to fully fund the eDelivery core service platform, in order to stimulate take-up. Depending on the actual deployment and use of the service, direct CEF funding is expected to decrease, possibly as of 2017, and eventually drop to zero.

In regard to long-term sustainability, two scenarios are presently being considered.

In the first scenario, this building block DSI would be paid for through contributions from DSIs using the service, which would apply to DSIs funded via the CEF as well as DSIs funded via other sources, for example, DSIs run by a Commission service. By 2016, the eProcurement, eInvoicing and eJustice DSIs can be expected to use the eDelivery service. Further potential Commission users include, for example, DG MARE (CISE) and DG TAXUD (CCN).

In the second scenario, the operational costs would be covered by transactional revenues, plus possibly an annual service charge for the gateways. As with the first scenario, the more DSIs use the service, the lower the cost for a given DSI and its users.

Strategies and business models as regards sustainability will be developed in the course of 2014/2015.

Type of financial support and proposed budget

The operation of the core service platform will be procured, with an indicative budget of EUR 8 million for a contract duration of four years.

Actions envisaged beyond 2014

In 2014, funding has been foreseen for the migration of the eDelivery software and service components to a consolidated deployable version established by the eSENS Large Scale Pilot project in 2016 or earlier.

Subject to the availability of sufficient financial resources, grants might be made available for generic services in 2015 or 2016 if the uptake is considered too low to ensure continuous usage and financial sustainability.

Title: Electronic Delivery of Documents – eDelivery

Indicative total budget for 2014: EUR 8 million

Type of financial support: procurement

Duration of the action: 4 years

3.1.5   Electronic Invoicing - eInvoicing

3.1.5.1 Background and rationale

eInvoicing means the electronic transfer of invoicing information, both billing and payment, between a supplier and a buyer, the latter in this context being a public authority. Such transfer of invoicing information is central to e.g. the electronic procurement process.

The EU is currently fragmented due to multiple administrative and technical set-ups at national level. The existence of multiple incompatible standards and IT solutions across the EU poses a major challenge with regard to the exchange of eInvoices. This exacerbates the interoperability problem and enterprises must adopt a different standard each time they enter a new market, with the associated costs and delays. The legal uncertainty surrounding the provision and use of eInvoicing across borders is seen by suppliers as burdensome and presents a definite risk of non-acceptance of eInvoices from other Member States.

The specific objective is to improve the functioning of the Single Market by introducing mechanisms that lower market access barriers in cross-border procurement, building on existing experience (the Commission supports and implements a number of projects to facilitate the roll-out of eInvoicing in the EU, including the Large Scale Pilot PEPPOL whose eInvoicing component has been trialled in a dozen Member States).

To improve the situation and make a decisive move towards fuller usage of electronic invoices, on 26 June 2013 the Commission proposed a Directive on eInvoicing in public procurement, COM(2013) 449. Once adopted, the DSI will be upgraded to ensure full alignment with the Directive.

3.1.5.2 Implementation 2014

Actions in 2014

The 2014 actions serve to deploy a number of operational services enabling a comprehensive technical and organisational solution for eInvoicing in public procurement. It builds on the work undertaken under the CIP programme, with particular reference to the results of the PEPPOL Large Scale Project and, in the longer run, the eSENS Large Scale Project.

This includes the launch, maintenance and operation of the eInvoicing core service platform to enable its autonomous operation for a period of four years.

The main tasks for the launch and operation of the eInvoicing core service platform include:

1) Technical tasks:
    i. implementation, testing and open-source publishing of software components and related specifications in collaboration with standardisation bodies;
    ii. development and operation of a testing and reference centre to validate third parties' implementation of the common specifications, and check their interoperability. Existing methodologies and infrastructures will be exploited as far as possible;

2) Support and training:
    i.   support to Member States in the implementation and deployment process through helpdesk and hotline services;
    ii. dissemination and training actions for actual and prospective users, both public and private sector, including national authorities and administrations;
    iii. technical training and remote support for software companies and other parties who intend to integrate the service within their own products and services;

3) Service administration and stakeholder engagement:
    i.   day-by-day administration and operation; provision of statistics on the use of the services for the purpose of European statistics as well as other information on the functioning of the service, enquiries and complaints, bug reports and change requests, etc.;
    ii. support the Commission, the Member States and the stakeholder community at large in steering the extension of the service and monitoring its functional and geographical deployment;
    iii. support interaction with the stakeholder community by organising pan-European events and fora for discussion in close cooperation with the relevant services of the Commission.

These tasks will be further refined after a consultation of the European Multi-stakeholder Forum on eInvoicing.

The eInvoicing core service platform is intended to primarily serve the needs on the B2G domain. It will complement the infrastructure and the services set up in Europe by private operators in the eInvoicing domain.

Benefits and expected outcomes

The eInvoicing core service platform should facilitate the implementation and roll out of the forthcoming Directive on eInvoicing in public procurement, which aims at removing obstacles to cross-border trade deriving from the co-existence of several legal requirements and technical specifications which hinder interoperability. In this respect, the Directive calls on the development of a European standard (EN) for the semantic data model of the core elements of an electronic invoice. Contracting authorities and entities will have the obligation to receive and process electronic invoices that comply with the EN and with any of complying syntaxes that will be published in the Official Journal.

Under these circumstances, sellers can be reassured that their electronic invoices, complying with the provisions of the Directive, will be accepted by all contracting authorities and entities throughout the EU. This in turn will lead to significant economies and help generate new business opportunities. Overall, the Commission estimates that implementation of eInvoicing in public procurement across the EU could generate savings of up to EUR 2.3 billion a year.

At operational level, the main groups of beneficiaries are: i) contracting authorities, as purchasers of goods, works and services; ii) firms, including SMEs, which sell goods, works and services to contracting authorities; iii) enterprises providing eInvoicing services.

The expected volume of transactions related to eInvoicing will be over a million per month by 2015.

Operation and stakeholder involvement

While Member States will be actively involved in the implementation and deployment process, to ease and speed up widespread acceptance and use, the European Commission services will be in charge of the operational management of the service at the start of the programme. The governance group will initially consist of representatives of the Member States, relevant stakeholders including the European Multi-stakeholder Forum on eInvoicing as well as the relevant Commission services. The direct involvement of a representative cross-section of user communities (buyers as well as sellers) is expected in the future.

For the DSI to be successful, Member States need to actively take part in the implementation of the eInvoicing core service platform, promote its use nationally as well as connect to and make use of the platform themselves whenever relevant, also at own expense.

Sustainability

In the short to medium term the Commission is expected to fully fund the eInvoicing core service platform and to support any related generic services with a view to promoting take-up. Depending on the actual deployment and use of the service, direct CEF funding is expected to decrease, possibly as of 2017, and eventually to drop to zero.

In regard to long-term sustainability, two scenarios are presently being considered.

In the first scenario, the eInvoicing core service platform would be paid for through contributions from the DSIs using the service. This would apply both to DSIs funded via the CEF programme and to DSIs not funded by the CEF e.g. DSIs run by a Commission service.

In the second scenario, the operational costs of the eInvoicing core service platform would be covered by transactional revenues, plus possibly an annual service charge for the gateways. As with the previous scenario, the more DSIs use the service, the lower the cost for a given DSI and its users.

Strategies and business models as regards sustainability will be developed in the course of 2014/2015.

Type of financial support

The operation of the eInvoicing core service platform will be procured, with an indicative budget of EUR 9 million for a contract duration of four years.

Actions envisaged beyond 2014

In 2014, funding has been foreseen for the migration of the eInvoicing software and service components to a consolidated deployable version established by the eSENS Large Scale Pilot project in 2016 or earlier.

Subject to the availability of sufficient financial resources, grants are expected be made available for generic services in 2015 or 2016 if the uptake is considered too low to ensure continuous usage and financial sustainability

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Title: Electronic Invoicing – eInvoicing

Indicative total budget for 2014: EUR 9 M

Type of financial support: Procurement

Duration of the action: 4 years

3.1.6 Open Data

3.1.6.1 Background and Rationale

The public sector produces and collects a wide range of information in many areas of activity. EU citizens and businesses can benefit hugely from this information provided it is made available as Open Data — that is, available free of charge for use and re-use. Open public data increase transparency, support economic growth in making content available for innovative services, and increase efficiency of administrations facilitating information sharing.

Public data resources, however, are still widely scattered, being at best aggregated at the level of national, local or sectoral portals, and information is made available in different, often incompatible formats. Data interoperability is also hampered by legal and linguistic barriers.

The overall objective of the Open Data service infrastructure is to help boost the development of information products and services based on the re-use and combination of open public data, across the EU.

Improved access to public sector information is in fact an essential component of the EU strategy for stimulating new business opportunities and addressing societal challenges, with a huge but currently underexploited potential for cross-border and cross-sectoral data re-use. While open data portals exist at national and sectoral levels, cross-border and cross-sectoral synergies can only be achieved through the deployment of an infrastructure at EU level. This infrastructure implements one of the key actions included in the Commission communication on Open Data (COM(2011) 882 of December 2011, underpinning Directive 2003/98/EC and its revision 2013/37/EU on the re-use of public sector information (PSI).

3.1.6.2 Implementation 2014

Actions in 2014

The specific objective in 2014 is to set in motion the deployment of a comprehensive Open Data core platform based on the experience gained through the existing pilot portal (http://publicdata.eu), and on agreed standards for metadata and data interoperability.

Work will cover the setting-up, launch, operation and maintenance of a large-scale pan-European Open Data portal, allowing cross-border and cross-sectoral discovery, and featuring advanced visualisation capabilities. Priority will be given to high-value data sets in line with the Public Sector Information (PSI) guidelines and the Open Data Charter endorsed at G8 level in June 2013.

The main tasks to be carried out in 2014 will include:

- Implementation and launch of the pan-European Open Data portal, including an initial set of end-user facilities and providing a high degree of scalability in order to cope with increased demand both in terms of users and referenced data sets:

    - Portal hosting, including appropriate storage capabilities and setting-up of the technical and service infrastructure necessary for operating the portal, targeting an initial coverage of at least 35 000 to 50 000 referenced data sets.

    - Provision of browsing, search and download capabilities, both through user interfaces and APIs. Implementation of a first series of software tools for data aggregation and linking, metadata capture/editing and data validation, as well as for visualisation, data analysis and other end-user interfaces.

    - Links to Member States' national and local portals and specific open data sets, through the extension and adaptation of transformation tools from the national or native metadata models to the common standards.

    - Daily operation and administration of the platform. Helpdesk for users, technical and legal support for data providers and re-users.

- Support for data providers — particularly national and local portals — and public administrations' open data, for the creation or transformation of harmonised metadata and other machine-readable resources. Partnership and consensus building, in particular interaction with stakeholders including Member States, user communities and the private sector, and exchanges with the open data community.

- Support interaction with the stakeholder community through pan-European events and fora for discussion.

- Hosting and maintenance of the current pilot portal (publicdata.eu) until its phasing-out; transfer of the pilot content to the new platform.

Benefits and expected outcomes

Stakeholders and at the same time beneficiaries of the planned Open Data infrastructure are the private sector (mainly developers of value added services based on the re-use of public data), administrations at all levels of government, the open data user community, and research institutions. Citizens will benefit through increased transparency and availability of innovative services, as well as through an expected increase in the efficiency of public services and administrations.

A significant long-term impact on the development of the digital Single Market for innovative ICT-based services is expected. High value sectors such as geo-location, tourism, transportation, education, marketing and decision support systems will benefit from more abundant, cross-border availability of public open data.

The activities launched in 2014 will make available, from 2016 onwards, a large-scale pan-European Open Data portal, allowing cross-border and cross-sectoral discovery, and featuring advanced end-user capabilities to maximise the re-use of provided datasets. Support activities will facilitate content harmonisation as well as coordination with Member States and stakeholders.

Operation and stakeholder involvement

At the start of the programme, the core platform will be operated by a contractor tasked by the Commission with setting it up, followed by launch and initial deployment. The governance structure will be built around the existing Public Sector Information group and its sub-group on open data portals, consisting of representatives of Member States and relevant Commission services. This group will be progressively extended to include industry representatives, user associations, and projects/actions playing a key role in the promotion and re-use of open data, with the aim of building partnerships, securing operational support and smooth provision of data, and defining future requirements. Supplementary coordination activities addressing e.g. specific domains, levels of governance or stakeholders, will support the platform features and content evolution.

Sustainability

Exploiting the full potential of open data depends heavily on a concerted effort to establish standardised, interoperable solutions for data publishing and access. Currently, national infrastructures are still under development and Member States mainly invest in data production and publication, and in setting up national aggregators. European funding

for the deployment of the open data infrastructure is required to initiate a structured process of data aggregation and cross-border / cross-domain exploitation at EU level.

Once a critical mass of interoperable content has become available, it will be possible to progressively reduce EU funding, with support from Member States (in-kind or direct) and, where possible, the private sector contributing to long-term operation and further extension. In close cooperation with Member States a business model will be defined, based on a combination of possible scenarios, including: contribution by Member States for the operation of the open data portal (functioning of the technical infrastructure, support for data harmonisation and publishing, possible data hosting); fees paid by companies using customised value added services offered by the portal (e.g. bulk download, alert services, guaranteed bandwidth); hosting of the whole infrastructure by a platform made available by the private sector.

Strategies and business models as regards sustainability will be developed in the course of 2014/2015.

Type of financial support

Procurement.

Actions envisaged beyond 2014

Initial deployment of the infrastructure will be followed by a consolidation and further extension phase, from linkages to national and main regional or sectoral portals to a progressive coverage of resources at the local level, and possible integration of selected resources from third countries and the private sector. Generic service funding will also be made available to the Member States to support the interoperability of their open data portals content and infrastructures with the pan European one.

After the initial building of a critical mass of referenced data sets, priority will be given to the comprehensive availability of data with the highest value for re-use, with the ultimate goal of achieving nearly-full coverage of all EU public data. The adoption of common standards for metadata and data and for licensing conditions, as well as the implementation of appropriate transformation services to achieve interoperability, will be an important element of this process.

End-user services will be enhanced over time (e.g. extended visualisation and data analysis tools, automatic data conversion, automated translation of metadata/data) to make it easier for businesses and administrations alike to use the portal. The capacity of the infrastructure will likewise be enhanced to cope with the increased demand resulting from its expanding topical and geographical coverage.

Title: Launch and operation of the Open Data core service platform

Indicative total budget for 2014: EUR 8 million

Type of financial support: Procurement

Duration of the action: up to three years

Indicative publication date: Q2 2014

DSIs approaching maturity for which further preparatory work is required in 2014

3.1.7 **Automated Translation**

3.1.7.1 Background and rationale

Language barriers currently prevent citizens from accessing all public services across Member States. Automated translation will facilitate cross-border information exchange and enable cross-border access to online content and services provided by the DSIs of the CEF.

The overall objective is to offer automated translation services to EU institutions and public administrations in the Member States. It will build on the existing Commission Machine Translation service (MT@EC) which is operational since June 2013 and is already available to EU institutions, online digital services and public administrations in Member States. Automated translation will interface seamlessly with other DSIs (e.g. online dispute resolution, business registries or e-procurements databases) and automatically translate the relevant content into any relevant EU language, maintaining the integrity, privacy and confidentiality of content, as required in each use context.

Automated Translation is a building block and as such it is designed to serve any current or future CEF DSI requiring cross-lingual functionality. The core component is automated translation of text, metadata and concept classes or nomenclatures. Emphasis is placed on secure, quality, customisable Machine Translation (MT).

Implementation 2014

The main objective of actions programmed in 2014 is to achieve full maturity and ensure that the Automated Translation core platform can be launched in full scale and functionality by actions planned in subsequent work programmes, starting from WP2015.

To achieve this, the WP2014 has the following **specific objectives**:

- to define and specify the necessary IT and service architecture and functionalities, based on an analysis of the specific requirements of at least three mature CEF DSIs that will benefit from Automated Translation;

- to operate an initial Automated Translation service using as a basis the Commission's machine translation system (MT@EC), and extending it to provide initial, small-scale customised automated translation services for three digital services, to be selected primarily from among mature and established CEF DSIs;

- to promote and support effective pooling of language resources for automated translation from various sources (such as existing language resource repositories, Member States' central and local administrations, academic institutions, national language competence centres, open data sources, etc.)

The main tasks include:

- analysing the multilinguality requirements of a subset of mature or operational CEF DSIs by pooling information from studies or ongoing and completed pilot

projects, and by liaising with the stakeholders, users and system owners of these DSIs; producing detailed specifications for an IT service architecture that will fulfil the above requirements, taking into account, where relevant, the experience of MT@EC;

- operating the MT@EC system in its current configuration, extending its language coverage and functionalities to allow provision of small-scale implementations of customised automated translation services to three mature or operational CEF DSIs; providing input to the requirements analysis and architecture specification tasks, especially deriving information from the small-scale implementations;

- setting up a coordination mechanism and governance structure that allows language resources from various sources to be made accessible and interoperable. This includes liaising with relevant Member State administrations in view of transferring linguistic assets and knowledge to improve the coverage and quality of the Automated Translation service. Special effort will be devoted to improving the situation of those EU languages that currently have poor coverage in terms of automated translation solutions.

Benefits and expected outcomes

The expected benefits are three-fold: i) contribution to the realisation of the digital single market by lowering language barriers; ii) effective roll-out and wider acceptance of pan-European DSIs; iii) significant potential for savings in translation costs in the public sector and increased security.

Sustainability

There are three interlinked elements that provide for long-term sustainability:

a) In line with the principle of subsidiarity, the Member States have a direct interest and also control over the level of service for their respective languages. As a counterpart, the Member States are invited to provide access to existing language resources and processing modules that allow their languages to be covered by the Automated Translation service. By analogy, the DSIs that need Automated Translation support are expected to provide access to language resources that they have accumulated and provide support and input for the requirements analysis. This in-kind contribution reduces the cost of acquiring and processing language resources, and allows CEF funding to focus on supporting a coordinating mechanism and infrastructure for pooling language resources from different sources.

b) The Automated Translation service can charge the user DSIs for automated translations, either based on actual translated volume or by a flat-rate subscription fee. The fee structure will allow rebates or free use for users that contribute to the Automated Translation system, e.g. Member States (or DSIs) providing language resources (see point a above) will benefit from 'credits' that they can use to pay for using the Automated Translation service.

c) As a 'side effect', the automated translation facility will bring significant cost savings and/or increased capacity to the EU institutions' translation services, currently operating on a budget of roughly EUR 1 billion a year. Similarly, the Member States' public services may make use of the translation service in their document production and achieve cost savings. These savings can be converted to revenue by introducing

fair and transparent charging, along the lines outlined under point b above. The charging against translations can be extended to third parties (non-CEF) interested in making their online services multilingual, including, for example, eCommerce operators, while ensuring equal and fair access to services for all operators and avoiding distortion of the market for language services.

These and further sustainability options will be more closely investigated in 2014, with the aim of defining a robust and realistic business model that allows the reliance on EU funding to be phased out by 2020.

Operation and stakeholder involvement

Member States will be actively involved in the implementation and deployment process. They are also invited to contribute to the language resources pool in order to improve the level of automated translation service for their respective languages. The Commission services will be in charge of the operational management. The initial governance group to be set up under the WP2014 will also include representatives from national language competence centres and from stakeholder groups representing existing language resource repositories and the leading users of the relevant DSIs, including Member State administrations. This governance body will be extended to encompass appropriate representation of the language industry and language technology experts (e.g. the META alliance, LT Innovate).

Type of financial support

The actions will be funded by procurement, with an indicative budget of EUR 4 M for a contract duration of two years.

Actions envisaged beyond 2014

The WP2014 actions aim at ensuring readiness to launch the full *core service platform*, in a staged fashion, in the two years that follow. Based on the requirements analysis and the small-scale implementations with selected CEF DSIs, the core platform will be launched in full. Subsequent extensions will also add to the core platform the machine translation adaptation facility, a highly automated 'factory' that can produce translation engines for any domain and use situations from available linguistic data, serving any language pairs and domains relevant to current and future CEF DSIs. The fully operational core platform will enable plug-in integration of machine translation solutions/technologies provided by different suppliers, to adapt translation engines to new domains and use situations quickly and easily, and to cater for secure and fast operations within and across administrative domains.

The envisaged future work on *language resources* will build on the coordination mechanism set up by 2014 actions. The objective is to acquire basic language resources from relevant repositories (e.g. META-SHARE) and suppliers, in view of populating the CEF language resources repository and powering the core service platform with translation engines for all EU languages. Another task is to ensure interoperability and legal (IPR, privacy) clearance of language resources by means of a central service. As the language resource provision from Member States is only expected to reach momentum from 2016 onwards, the CEF funding is expected to diminish to mainly cover the running operations of the coordination mechanism towards the end of the CEF programme.

> Title: Preparing the launch of Automated Translation core service platform
>
> Indicative total budget for 2014: EUR 4 million
>
> Type of financial support: Procurement
>
> Duration of the action: up to two years
>
> Indicative publication date: Q2 2014

3.1.8 **Cyber Security**

3.1.8.1 Background and rationale

Cybersecurity is a challenge common to all Member States. Efficient and timely sharing of information between public and private stakeholders about risks, vulnerabilities and threats — especially for critical information infrastructures — is crucial to providing high levels of cybersecurity in Europe. In times when the occurrence, power, velocity and complexity of attacks are on the rise, the targets of cyber-attacks need to be able to respond early enough to prevent or at least to mitigate the effect of such attacks on their networks and information systems.

Currently, a majority of communication channels and platforms of public and private Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) in the Member States have a purely national reach and are limited in their European connectivity. As a consequence, Europe does not make full use of its collective capabilities to improve cyber security. A first significant step towards improving the exchange of information between national CERTs would be to make best use of available and shareable information about cyber-attacks.

Therefore, the overall objective of this DSI is to establish and deploy a comprehensive information exchange platform to enhance the EU-wide capability for preparedness, information sharing, coordination and response to cyber threats. The planned infrastructure will allow for more timely and effective collaboration between the Member States. In this way, the Member States will gain a deeper and quicker awareness of ongoing cyber-attacks with efficient use of available resources, allowing them to limit the potential economic and political damage caused by cyber-attacks.

The technical and many organisational aspects of this DSI were extensively addressed in prior activities at national and European level, and provide for tested and mature technological solutions, as well as working experience with the organisational aspects involved. The list of relevant projects includes the pilot platform for a National and European Information Sharing and Alerting System (NEISAS), the Framework for Information Sharing and Alerting (FISHA) project, ENISA's work on a European Information Sharing and Alert System (EISAS) and on-going sector-specific initiatives such as the DENSEK project in electricity sector.

In addition, these activities are underpinned by the European Strategy for Cyber Security and the Directive concerning measures to ensure a high common level of network and information security across the Union (COM(2013) 48), proposed by the European Commission in February 2013, to which a core platform for information exchange will have to be aligned. Also, the Network and Information Security (NIS) Platform

(established in June 2013) might be involved to support interaction with private sector stakeholders.

To initiate the preparations for this information exchange platform, the WP2014 will entail preparatory work in the form of horizontal actions prior to the operational take-up and to the initial settings of the core platform that is expected to be launched by the WP2015.

3.1.8.2 Implementation 2014

Actions in 2014

Through a Call for tenders a single three-year contract should provide for the following outcomes:
- Establishment and maintenance of an initial governance structure of the information sharing platform with an initial group of Member States and CERTs which are available to steer the process;

- Identification by the governance board of the detailed technological functionalities for the core platform from the list of available and mature options. Preparation of its physical infrastructure and definition of the required security levels of the platform;

- Individual organisational and technical support to an initial group of Member State CERTs to identify their individual (technical, organisational and legal) challenges for enabling interoperability with the future core platform, including also the requirements from European legislation;

- Promoting best practice support of other CERTs to facilitate alignment to the core platform;

- Engaging the Member States to outline a medium-term roadmap of how to implement and extend the core platform to be available to all Member State CERTs, including awareness-raising activities and training with the European CERT stakeholder community.

Benefits and expected outcomes

One of the main purposes of this preparatory activity is to allow the Member States to steer the process, adapt it to their own needs and requirements and to build up a high level of trust between the participants to enable the establishment of an efficient and timely information exchange platform that facilitates the work of the individual CERTs and is of added value to all participants.

These preparatory actions of WP2014 will facilitate the launch of the core platform of this DSI, envisaged for WP2015.

Operation and stakeholder involvement

The preparatory activities envisaged in this Work Programme include giving a procurement contract to a tenderer that will organise and structure the interaction with the

Member States, the national CERTs and the European Commission (supported by ENISA) to implement the above-mentioned actions.

In the long term, the stakeholder community is expected to grow steadily to fully involve all Member States and their CERTs, which might consider extending collaboration to a wider group of national and international organisations in the field of cybersecurity, associated countries and stakeholders from the private sector (e.g. ICT security service providers, Internet service providers or private-sector CERTs).

Sustainability

Soon after the launch of the core platform (in WP2015), the European Commission is prepared to host and operate the service with the support of the external contractor, while the governance will be steered by the Commission and the Member States.

Type of financial support

The preparatory actions envisaged under this Work Programme include a procurement contract that provides financial support for above-mentioned coordination activities for the tenderer as well as the involved stakeholders. They include:

- Coordination of the governance structure;

- Organisational and technical support to individual CERTs;

- Interaction with stakeholders;

- Organisation of workshops and participation at events;

- Identification of core platform functionalities and best practices; and

- Awareness and training activities.

Actions envisaged beyond 2014

Pending the successful outcome of the preparatory stage, the specific objective for WP2015 will be to establish a 24/7 core platform covering a representative cross-section of Member States and CERTs. In the early years the cybersecurity DSI will set up, launch, maintain and operate the core service platform in order to collect, analyse and share information about cyber threats, and to provide best practice support to mitigate them. The platform will be populated by a core group of stakeholders among the national CERTs. In addition, the platform is to establish cooperation with existing initiatives, create links with relevant facilities and apply existing, adequate standards.

While the core platform will be supported by CEF funding through procurement, generic service funding will be made available to the Member States to support their alignment with the core platform.

Title: Cybersecurity – Preparatory actions for the launch and operation of an information sharing core platform between CERTs

Indicative total budget for 2014: EUR 2 million

Type of financial support: Call for tenders, single contract

Duration of the action: 3 years

Indicative publication date (where applicable): Q2 2014

3.2 Broadband

3.2.1.1 Background and rationale

CEF Broadband seeks to contribute to the Digital Agenda target of all European households having access to internet connections. CEF thus aims at facilitating an efficient flow of private and public investments to stimulate the deployment and modernisation of broadband networks.

The legal base stipulates that throughout the entire multiannual financial framework period (2014-2020), 15 % of the CEF Telecoms budget must be allocated to Broadband. At least one third of the broadband projects financially supported under CEF must aim at speeds above 100Mbps.

Furthermore, projects can only be funded through financial instruments, i.e. debt (e. g. loans, guarantees, project bonds instrument) or equity (e. g. a fund).

Projects of common interest can also be supported by horizontal actions, including studies and programme support actions, further referred to as 'technical assistance'.

3.2.1.2 Implementation 2014

Actions in 2014

Financial instruments

Following the ex-ante assessment in accordance with Article 5.7 of CEF Telecoms Guidelines and Annex IV of the CEF Regulation, the Commission with European Investment Bank (EIB) as a partner will establish a cross-sectoral CEF debt financial instrument (covering also the transport and energy areas). It is envisaged that the portfolio of the project bond pilot initiative, established under Regulation (EU) No 670/2012 will be integrated into the instrument.

For CEF broadband, the Commission will then make a budgetary commitment of € 16.479.450, as proposed in the budgetary procedure, which the EIB will be able to draw upon in its operation of the financial instrument.

A relatively small contribution from CEF Telecoms in 2014 will open this instrument to broadband projects, provide continuity for the project bonds initiative and offer efficiencies in terms of financial leverage and risk diversification through the cross-sectoral portfolio effect as well as in terms of administrative synergies.

Selection of the EIB as an entrusted entity

The CEF Regulation (Annex 1, Part 3) provides for the possibility to select in accordance with the Financial Regulation an entrusted entity for the design and implementation the CEF debt instrument.

The ex-ante assessment on the potential use of the financial instruments within the Connecting Europe Facility concluded that, given the current market failures in the financing of infrastructure projects in the CEF sectors, a Debt Instrument should be set up and launched initially in cooperation with the EIB.

The selection of the EIB as an entrusted entity has been made taking account of the CEF Regulation and of the requirements of Art. 84(3) of the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom No 966/2012) and of Article 94 of its Rules of Application.

The EIB has been playing a very important role in financing infrastructure projects in the 3 CEF sectors. Only the EIB, as the EU bank, covers all Member States. Moreover, the CEF debt instrument will build on the existing Project Bond Initiative and the Loan Guarantee for TEN-Transport, which were set up and run in coordination with the EIB. The EIB is therefore at this stage is best placed to leverage public and private investment in TEN networks under the CEF debt instrument.

As a risk-sharing partner of the Commission, the EIB is entrusted with the following tasks:

- Management of the EU contribution to the CEF debt instrument

- Design the products

- Finding intermediaries

- Implementation of Support Actions

- Establishment of a project pipeline

- Operational and financial reporting

- Management of the merger of the existing (LGTT and PBI) and new financial instruments under the CEF

Indicative implementation timetable

- 1 January 2015: Delegation Agreement is expected to enter into force.

- 1 January 2015 - 31 December 2022: Duration of the Delegation Agreement.

- Throughout 2015: Projects to be identified and concluded.

Connected Communities

The objective of this initiative is to identify and support a number of innovative pilot projects for deploying high speed broadband which can be replicated across the European Union. The initiative will also create a community of stakeholders which will work towards closing the high speed broadband gap.

The Commission has issued a call for expressions of interest[7] for "Connected Communities" to map potential European broadband projects, and identify the most mature ones.

The call is focused on suburban areas, small cities, and rural towns and communities and their respective surrounding areas. The call is technology neutral, all technical solutions will be considered (e.g. fibre, advanced copper-fibre and cable solutions, satellite and wireless). The call requires the submission of information concerning, inter alia, rollout plans, synergies with existing infrastructures, business models to be used (concessions,

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[7] https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/node/70418

gap funding, public build and operate etc.; demand stimulation and community involvement), business plans, including projects of rollout costs and revenues, financing plans, which may include sources other than CEF and, if relevant, the planned use of new infrastructures to support public services and/or to support SMEs.

The responses to the call will be evaluated on the basis of their respective quality and maturity. Evaluation will include identification of projects in areas most likely to benefit from financial instruments. The evaluation may be carried out with the assistance of independent experts.

Successful projects will be considered for targeted technical assistance, as described under the heading "Actions envisaged beyond 2014".

Benefits and expected outcomes

CEF broadband will benefit citizens, SMEs and larger enterprises by contributing to financing their connection to broadband internet. It is also expected that the programme will indirectly benefit further citizens and enterprises facilitating the investments of other private and public funds, such as the European Structural and Investment Funds.

Operation and stakeholder involvement

- Once the debt instrument has been set up with the EIB, project promoters (both public and private) can directly apply to the EIB. Projects will be assessed in a due diligence-process. Projects successfully screened will be submitted to the Commission for an eligibility check based on the CEF Regulation and the CEF Telecoms Guidelines. The financing decision is made by the EIB Board of Directors, in which both the Commission and all Member States are represented.

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- Projects should be further supported by the interaction with the stakeholder community which may include pan-European events and fora for discussion.

Type of financial support

CEF debt financial instrument: assistance will be available in the form of loans, guarantees, or contributions to the project bond instrument.

Actions envisaged beyond 2014

In view of the conclusion of the ex-ante assessment, the Commission may propose further annual allocations to the debt financial instrument.

Moreover, the Commission intends to establish a technical assistance facility for broadband, with the objective of facilitating the efficient flow of private and public investments into broadband projects.

Technical assistance will help make projects ready for potential financial assistance under CEF, inter alia, by assisting in building an efficient business plan, facilitating their

entry into due diligence process and, where necessary, the aggregation of relatively small individual projects into larger clusters, thereby contributing to their bankability.

Projects identified under the framework of the "Connected Communities" will be considered for such technical assistance.

Technical assistance may also include the development of targeted knowledge products, such as toolkits and technical reports.

The call for expressions of interest for "Connected Communities" may be repeated in 2015 or beyond.

Title: Broadband
Indicative total budget €16 479 450 for financial instruments in 2014
Type of financial support: financial instruments
Duration of the action: open

4 IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Main implementation measures and EU financial contribution

The different nature and specificities of the DSI detailed in Section 3 require distinctive implementation measures. Each of these will therefore be achieved either through calls for proposals resulting in grant agreements, or through procurement actions as specified in Section 3.

For all the measures implemented via calls for proposals, the EU funding is granted in accordance with the principles of co-financing and non-profit for the funded activities of each individual partner and in compliance with the European Union Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation[8]. EU grants will be calculated on the basis of eligible costs. Details of eligible costs can be found in the model grant agreement.

4.2 Procurement

Procurement actions will be carried out in compliance with the applicable EU public procurement rules. As per Section 3 of this Work Programme, procurement can be achieved either through direct calls for tenders or by using existing framework contracts.

4.3 Calls for proposals

4.3.1 General terms and provisions

Proposals must be submitted by one or more Member States or Associated Countries[9] or, with the agreement of the Member States or Associated Countries concerned, by international organisations, joint undertakings, or public or private undertakings or bodies established in Member States or Associated Countries.

Proposals may be submitted by entities which do not have legal personality under the applicable national law, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf and offer a guarantee for the protection of the Union's financial interests equivalent to that offered by legal persons.

Proposals submitted by natural persons will not be eligible.

Where necessary to achieve the objectives of a given project of common interest and where duly motivated, third countries and entities established in third countries may participate in actions contributing to the projects of common interest. They may not

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8   OJ C 323, 30.12.2006, p. 1.

9   European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries which are members of the European Economic Area (EEA), in accordance with the conditions laid down in the EEA Agreement and which have signed the association agreement. At the moment of writing these are Norway and Iceland.

receive funding under this Regulation, except where it is indispensable to achieve the objectives of a given project of common interest.

4.3.2   <u>Making a proposal</u>

Proposals should be submitted in accordance with the procedure defined in the call text. Guidelines for Applicants[10] containing full details on how to make a proposal will be available from the CEF website (http://inea.ec.europa.eu/en/cef/cef_telecom/)

4.3.3   <u>Evaluation process</u>

The evaluation of proposals will be based on the principles of transparency and equal treatment. It will be carried out by the Commission with the assistance of independent experts. Three sets of criteria (eligibility, award and selection) will be applied to each submitted proposal. The three sets of criteria are described in detail in Annex 2 of this Work Programme).

Only proposals meeting the requirements of the eligibility criteria will be evaluated further.

Each of the eligible proposals will be evaluated against the award criteria, while each individual applicant must demonstrate their financial and operational capacity to carry out the proposed action or work programme.

Proposals responding to a specific DSI as defined in Section 3 of this Work Programme will be evaluated both individually and comparatively. The comparative assessment of proposals will cover all proposals responding to the same DSI Generic Services call.

Proposals that achieve a score greater than or equal to the threshold will be ranked within the objective. These rankings will determine the order of priority for funding. Following evaluation of award criteria, the Commission establishes an implementation plan taking into account the scores and ranking of the proposals, the programme priorities and the available budget. This implementation plan will include proposals to be invited for negotiation, a reserve list of proposals to be negotiated should budget become available, and a list of proposals that are to be rejected either for lack of budget or lack of quality (failure to meet one or more of the award criteria thresholds).

The coordinators of all the submitted proposals are informed in writing about the outcome of the evaluation for their proposal.

4.3.4   <u>Selection of independent experts for evaluation and reviews</u>

The Commission will select independent experts to assist with the evaluation of proposals and with the review of project results as well as for other purposes where specific expertise might be required for implementation of the Programme. Experts are invited to apply using the mechanisms and tools provided for in the H2020 FP[11] and a list of experts appropriate to the requirements of the Programme will be established. Experts

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[10] To be confirmed.

[11] See publication
http://inea.ec.europa.eu/en/news__events/newsroom/experts_wanted_for_project_proposal_evaluation.htm.

will be selected from this list on the basis of their ability to perform the tasks assigned to them, taking into account the thematic requirements of the call or project, and with consideration of geographical and gender balance.

4.3.5 <u>Indicative implementation calendar</u>

The indicative calendar for the implementation of CEF Telecommunication calls in 2014 is shown in the table below. The Commission expects to issue calls for proposals in accordance with this 2014 Work Programme.

Date	Event
April 2014	Publication of Call for Proposals for Safer Internet Generic Services (Call1)
April 2014	Publication of Call for Proposal for Europeana Core Service (Call2)
August 2014	Call1 closes
September 2014	Evaluation of Call1 proposals
September 2014	Call2 closes
November 2014	Evaluation of Call2 proposals
October 2014	Publication of Call for Proposals for Electronic identification and authentication - eIdentification and eSignature - Generic Services (Call3)
December 2014	Signature of grant agreements related to Call1
Q1 2015	Signature of grant agreement related to Call2
January 2015	Call3 closes
February 2015	Evaluation of Call3 proposals
June 2015	Signature of grant agreements related to Call3

4.4 Financial Instruments

As mentioned in section 3.2, the Commission will conclude a delegation agreement with the EIB. For CEF broadband, the Commission will then make a budgetary commitment of €16.479.450, which the EIB will be able to draw upon in its operation of the debt financial instrument. Then, project promoters can directly address the EIB. Projects will be assessed in a due diligence-process. Successful projects will be submitted to the Commission for an eligibility check based on the CEF Regulation and the CEF Telecoms Guidelines. The financing decision is made by the EIB Board of Directors, in which both the Commission and all Member States are represented

5 PROGRAMME SUPPORT ACTIONS

5.1 Studies, other measures, conferences and events

Studies or actions addressing different topics affecting the further development of CEF Telecommunication deployment will be launched. The themes to be addressed could include:

<u>Studies</u>

- Analysis and assessment of the DSI sustainability.

- Analysis and assessment of the technical maturity for each of the DSIs listed in the CEF Telecom guidelines (including those which have not met the eligibility criteria for 2014, e.g. eHealth services, eProcurement, interconnection of European business registers or Online Dispute Resolution).

The above studies will be implemented through calls for tenders. An indicative number of 2 direct service contracts are expected. The calls for tenders are planned to be launched in the second calendar quarter of 2014.

<u>Other</u>

- Conferences and workshops to engage with relevant stakeholders.

    The above mentioned events will be implemented through calls for tenders. An indicative number of 5 direct service contracts are expected. The calls for tenders are planned to be launched in the second and third calendar quarter of 2014.

In addition, support will be provided to evaluation and project reviews[12], including Safer Internet running projects and the Connected Communities Initiative.

The total budget allocated to 'studies, other measures, conferences and events' is EUR 680 789.

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[12] In accordance with Article 204 of the Financial Regulation

6   FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information relating to this programme, please refer to the CEF Telecommunications website at https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/connecting-europe-facility.

ANNEXES

Annex 1 – Call for proposal fiches

- **Call identifier: CEF-TC-2014-1**
- Date of publication: 8 April 2014[13]
- Closing date: 27 August 2014, at 17:00, Brussels local time[14]
- Indicative budget: EUR 9.8 million
- Subject area: Safer Internet Generic Services
- Eligibility and admissibility conditions: The conditions are described in Annex 2 to this Work Programme
- Evaluation criteria, scoring and threshold: The criteria, scoring and threshold are described in Annex 2 to this Work Programme.

- **Call identifier: CEF-TC-2014-2**
- Date of publication: 8 April 2014[13]
- Closing date: 23 September 2014, at 17:00, Brussels local time[14]
- Indicative budget: EUR 9 million
- Subject area: Europeana Core Service
- Eligibility and admissibility conditions: The conditions are described in Annex 2 to this Work Programme
- Evaluation criteria, scoring and threshold: The criteria, scoring and threshold are described in Annex 2 to this Work Programme.

- **Call identifier: CEF-TC-2014-3**
- Date of publication: 4 December 2014[13]
- Closing date: 5 May 2015, at 17:00, Brussels local time[14]
- Indicative budget: EUR 8,7 million
- Subject area: Electronic identification and authentication — eIdentificantion and eSignature — Generic Services
- Eligibility and admissibility conditions: The conditions are described in Annex 2 to this Work Programme
- Evaluation criteria, scoring and threshold: The criteria, scoring and threshold are described in Annex 2 to this Work Programme.

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13 The Director-General responsible for the call may publish it up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date of publication.

14 At the time of publication of the call, the Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to one month.

Annex 2 - Evaluation criteria for the Calls for Proposals

Admissibility conditions

To be considered admissible, a proposal must be:

– Submitted on time: proposals must arrive at the Commission by the date and time and at the address specified in the relevant call for proposals. Proposals must be submitted as specified in the same call: either electronically or on paper. The call deadline is a deadline for receipt of proposals.

– Complete: this includes the requested administrative data, the proposal description, and any supporting document specified in the call. Incomplete proposals may be considered as inadmissible.

Eligibility criteria

Proposals will be eligible if they meet the following criteria:

– Consortium composition. The composition of the proposing consortium complies with the requirements set out in this Work Programme.

– Submission by legal persons. Proposals need to be submitted by legal entities.

Exclusion criteria

– Applicants must certify that they are not in any of the situations listed below:

    i.   they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;

    ii.   they or persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control over them have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment of a competent authority of a Member State which has the force of res judicata;

    iii.   they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify including by decisions of the EIB and international organisations;

    iv.   they are not in compliance with their obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;

    v.   they or persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control over them have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering or any other illegal activity, where such illegal activity is detrimental to the Union's financial interests;

vi.   they are subject to a financial or administrative penalty referred to in Article 109(1) of the Financial Regulation;

vii.   they are subject to a conflict of interests;

viii.   they are guilty of misrepresenting the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in the procurement procedure or have failed to supply that information.

Proposals failing to meet the above criteria are not accepted for further evaluation.

Selection criteria

Applicants must demonstrate their financial and operational capacity to carry out the proposed action.

Award criteria

The proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the criteria 'Relevance', 'Quality and efficiency of the implementation' and 'Impact', further described below:

Relevance

– Alignment with the objectives and activities required for the deployment of the Digital Service Infrastructure described in Chapter 3 of the work programme.

– Alignment and synergies with relevant policies, strategies and activities at European and national level.

Quality and efficiency of the implementation

– Maturity of the proposed solution (e.g. in terms of contribution towards interoperability, connectivity, sustainable deployment, operation, upgrading of trans-European digital service infrastructures, use of common building blocks, coordination at European level) and/or integration with existing components of the DSI,

– Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources.

– Quality and relevant experience of the individual participants and, if more than one beneficiary, of the consortium as a whole (including complementarity, balance).

– Extent to which the proposal demonstrates support from national authorities, industry and NGOs (when relevant).

– Appropriate attention to security, privacy, inclusiveness and accessibility (when relevant).

Impact and sustainability

– Quality of the approach to facilitate wider deployment and take-up of the proposed actions.

– Capability to survive, develop and scale up without European Union funding after the end of the project with a view to achieving long-term sustainability, where appropriate through funding sources other than CEF.

A score will be applied to each of the three award criteria. If a proposal fails to achieve one or more of the threshold scores (see below), feedback will be provided to the consortium on the reason(s) for failure.

Proposals that are outside the scope of the Work Programme objectives will be marked '0' for the Relevance criterion — with the comment 'out of scope of the call'; they will not be further evaluated.

For each award criterion a score from 0 to 5 is given (half points possible):

0. the proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.

1. Very poor: The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.

2. Not satisfactory: While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses.

3. Good: The proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary.

4. Very Good: The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible.

5. Excellent: The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.

The respective thresholds for the award criteria are:

Criterion	Threshold
A1	3
A2	3
A3	3

Based on the scores of the individual award criteria, a total score will be calculated for each proposal. Proposals responding to each of the objectives of the call will be ranked in groups on that basis.

Annex 3 – Conformity with the legal base

The DSI and Broadband objectives described in Sections 3 and 5 refer to the kind of actions that can be provided for under the CEF Telecomm as defined in Art. 4 of the CEF Regulation.