

CEF TELECOM – 2018-5 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Public Open Data - **version 7 November 2018**

All information in blue has been added since the previous version.

Commonly used abbreviations in this FAQ

HPC	High-Performance Computing
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1. What is the difference between this call and the 2017-3 Public Open Data call?

The main differences between this year's call and the 2017-3 Public Open Data call are as follows.

The current call has three objectives, addressing different types of actions:

- Objective 1 calls for actions supporting the re-use of information made available through the European Data portal
- Objective 2 calls for actions creating and deploying cross-border services providing access to harmonised thematic open dataset(s) and the corresponding metadata
- Objective 3 calls for actions increasing the high-performance computing (HPC) and data capacities in Europe by developing and offering HPC-based services and tools of public interest

As indicated in Section 5 of the call text under "Admissibility requirements", Objectives 1 and 2 have specific consortium requirements. Please note that failure to comply with any of these requirements will lead to the rejection of the application. Specifically, Objective 1 requires consortia of at least two entities from two or more Member States, including at least one public sector body, and Objective 2 requires consortia of at least five entities from five or more Member States.

Finally, while the overall indicative amount to be allocated on the basis of this call is €18.5 million, for each Objective different indicative amounts are foreseen: €2 million euro for Objective 1, €1.5 million for Objective 2, and €15 million for Objective 3.

2. My proposal will offer a service to be sold on the market. Is there any ceiling on the fees for services derived from CEF actions?

In accordance with Article 125 of the Financial Regulation, grants shall not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit within the framework of the action.¹ The rules governing the profit stemming from funded actions are laid out in Art. II.25.3 of the model grant agreement. Any profit made by the beneficiary (income generated by the action and/or financial contributions specifically assigned by the donors) would have to be declared to the Innovation & Networks Executive Agency (INEA) when submitting the Payment of the Balance request. Note that where the final amount of the grant would result in a profit for one or more beneficiaries, the profit will be deducted in proportion to the final rate of reimbursement of the actual eligible costs of the action approved by INEA for the relevant categories of costs.

3. The call text refers to a mandatory compliance testing for the actions selected under this call. What does the testing include?

At the end of the funded actions, a validation milestone will be included to verify the compliance with the Metadata Quality Assurance (MQA) tool for datasets. This means that relevant datasets

¹ In the meaning of Article 125 of the Financial Regulation, profit is defined as a surplus of the receipts over the eligible costs incurred by the beneficiary, when the request is made for payment of the balance.

(including metadata) resulting from the action will have to be published on a national portal or catalogue that is harvested by the European Data Portal², under which the MQA can be performed, and confirmed in the final report submitted to INEA. In the case of Objective 2 (providing access to harmonised thematic open dataset(s) and the corresponding metadata), ensuring availability of datasets through the European Data Portal should not raise any issues. For Objectives 1 and 3, in case this will not be possible (e.g. datasets cannot be published on a national data portal or catalogue), the verification step will be to ensure that the datasets are publicly available as open data.

4. Should proposals cover issues related to data privacy and security?

Indeed, under the award criterion 'Quality and efficiency of the implementation', the proposals will be evaluated as to how the aspects of privacy and security will be addressed during the action e.g. with respect to data collection, data processing and data storage. See section 8 of the call text for an overview of the award criteria and their significance.

5. Should the data we use in our proposed Action be European in nature?

In terms of the European nature of the data, the call text does not explicitly require that all input data must be of a European scale. However, proposals should demonstrate their contributions to the overall objectives of the CEF Telecom programme, and in particular to the EU policies mentioned in the Work Programme and the call itself, e.g. in relation to the re-use of data available through the European Data Portal or other national portals.

6. Can small companies be eligible in a consortium applying to the Public Open data call?

Yes, small companies are eligible provided that the consortium composition requirements, as defined in the call text, are met. More information about eligible applicants is provided in section 6 of the call text ("Eligibility criteria"), whereas more information about the consortium composition requirements is available in section 5 of the call text ("Admissibility requirements"). Please note that the consortium composition requirements vary between the different objectives of the call.

7. Are there already existing CEF Telecom projects on Public Open Data?

Yes, there have been two past CEF Telecom calls on Public Open Data, but with slightly different objectives compared to the currently open call. Information about the Actions underway as a result of these calls is available on the INEA website at <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/connecting-europe-facility/cef-telecom/projects-by-dsi>.

8. Is an Innovation Consultancy permitted to be the coordinator of a proposal submitted to this call?

Yes, provided that the consultancy firm is eligible to apply to the call and has the intention to be one of the beneficiaries of the grant. In line with section 6.1 of the call text, private undertakings or bodies established in a Member State or EEA country may submit an application, as long as they have secured the agreement of the Member State(s) or EEA countr(y)ies concerned. However, please note that certain calls (or objectives within calls) may have specific eligibility conditions restricting the types of entity that may apply.

Questions on Objective 1

9. Can you clarify the meaning of "open data"?

² <http://data.europa.eu/europeandataportal>

As stated in section 3.6.1.2 (page 39) of the CEF Telecom Work Programme 2018, open data is intended as "data that is made freely available for re-use to everyone for both commercial and non-commercial purposes".

10. Do all data resulting from the Action have to be made publicly available (although sensitive data such as health data from patients cannot be made publically available)?

The call does not require that all the final data is used on the European Data Portal, but it is required that relevant datasets (including metadata) resulting from the action are published on a national portal or catalogue that is harvested by the European Data Portal (see section 2.1 of the call text). If such publication on a national portal or catalogue is not possible, applicants must duly justify the reasons why, and ensure that the relevant datasets (including metadata) resulting from the Action will be made publicly available as Open Data.

11. Can access-limited sharing of data between trusted partner organisations through a federated network be considered as an example of creating cross border re-use of open datasets?

Access-limited sharing of data between trusted partner organisations can be part of the Action, as long as relevant datasets are made publicly available.

12. Regarding the phrase in the call text "Support for the re-use of information made discoverable/available through the European Data Portal", do you mean that the data should be already available in the Portal?

This is a possibility, but it is not an obligation; data could also come totally or partially from sources other than the European Data Portal. However, the results of the Action should be made discoverable/available whenever possible through the European Data Portal.

In particular, as stated in FAQ 11, while the call does not require that all the final data is directly used on the European Data Portal, it is required that relevant datasets (including metadata) resulting from the action are published on a national portal or catalogue that is harvested by the European Data Portal (see section 2.1 of the call text). If such publication on a national portal or catalogue is not possible, applicants must duly justify the reasons why, and ensure that the relevant datasets (including metadata) resulting from the Action will be made publicly available as Open Data.

13. The admissibility criteria for Objective 1 of this call require proposals to be submitted by consortia consisting of at least one public sector body. What is the definition of a public sector body?

For the purposes of the 2018-5 Public Open Data call, an entity is considered a public sector body if it meets the definition provided in Article 2 of the Directive on the Re-use of Public Sector Information, also known as the 'PSI Directive' (Directive 2003/98/EC amended by Directive 2013/37/EU. For information, the consolidated version of the Directive is available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02003L0098-20130717>).

According to Article 2 of the Directive:

"1. 'public sector body' means the State, regional or local authorities, bodies governed by public law and associations formed by one or several such authorities or one or several such bodies governed by public law;

2. 'body governed by public law' means any body:

(a) established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character; and

(b) having legal personality; and

(c) financed, for the most part by the State, or regional or local authorities, or other bodies governed by public law; or subject to management supervision by those bodies; or having an administrative, managerial or supervisory board, more than half of whose members are appointed by the State, regional or local authorities or by other bodies governed by public law."

14. The call consortium composition requirements are "at least two entities from two or more Member States, including at least one public sector body". The one public sector body has to be from each Member States, or it is sufficient to have a public sector body from only one Member State?

It is sufficient to have a public sector body from one Member State, provided that at least one other entity from another Member State is part of the consortium. The requirement of at least one public sector body refers to the consortium as a whole, not the Member States.

15. Can a body in one Member State implement while a body in another Member State re-uses the data?

This would be possible in principle, as long as the consortia composition requirements (stated in section 5 of the call text) have been met.

However, it should be recalled that the merits of each proposal, including the role of each applicant, will be assessed individually against a pre-defined set of award criteria (listed in section 8 of the call text). These include the 'relevance' of the proposal, its alignment with the **objectives and activities** required for the deployment of the Digital Service Infrastructure (described in Chapter 3 of the Work Programme), **and the priorities set in section 2 of the call text**. Among these priorities (as stated in section 2.1 of the call text), proposals should improve the usability of open data across borders, addressing both technical and legal issues. For example, one of the issues that the proposal must address is to facilitate the re-use of datasets belonging to the same domain and generated by different authorities.

16. Further to section 3.6.2 of the Work Programme, when are the two new functions for Big Data and FIWARE expected to be available and operational? Where can more details and specifications on these two new functions be found?

The two new functions specified under the 2018 Work Programme that are planned to be added to the Core Service Platform (i.e. Big Data Test Infrastructure and the FIWARE context broker) will not be fully operational at the time of closure of this call. Potential applicants under Objective 1 should focus their proposals on the European Data Portal, as set out in the Call Text and Work Programme.

Information about the Big Data Test Infrastructure building block is expected to be published on the following CEF Digital web page in mid-November: <https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/display/CEFDIGITAL/Building+Blocks>.

More information about FIWARE can be found at <https://www.fiware.org>, and its current specifications can be consulted at <http://fiware.github.io/specifications/ngsiv2/stable>.

Questions on Objective 2

17. Do all 5 entities required by the consortium composition requirements have to generate the same cross-border services providing access to harmonised thematic open dataset(s) and the corresponding metadata, or can each entity generate its own cross-border service? For example, could a Member State generate services for transport data and another Member State generate services for climate data?

While each entity can in principle generate a cross border service, please note that the call puts a strong emphasis on geographical data coverage as it requires that the cross-border services have pan-European or at least cross-border geographical coverage.

18. Please confirm that no public body is needed for applications to Objective 2.

Correct. As per section 6.1 of the call text, proposals can be submitted by one or more Member States; and, with the agreement of the Member State(s) or EEA countr(y)ies concerned, international organisations, Joint Undertakings, or public or private undertakings or bodies established in Member States.