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ANNEX

CONNECTING EUROPE FACILITY (CEF)

TRANS-EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS

WORK PROGRAMME 2016

June 2016

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 2016 Work Programme (WP2016) for CEF Telecommunications (CEF Telecom) digital service infrastructures. It outlines the general objectives and the priorities for actions to be launched in 2016 and explains how these can be tangibly achieved through the selected digital service infrastructure. 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 and other supporting actions.

Financial instruments for broadband will be covered in a separate joint work programme for all three sectors of the CEF. This Work Programme, however, covers also horizontal actions also in the area of broadband, as defined in Section 3 of the Annex to the CEF Telecom guidelines.

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

The recent Communication setting out the Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe[3] recognizes the importance of CEF Digital Services Infrastructures to meet the needs of businesses and citizens in their cross-border activities. An inclusive e-society, supported among others by e-government services such as eSignature and eProcurement, is identified as key to the maximisation of the growth potential of the European Digital Economy.

CEF DSIs also contribute to the enforcement of cross-border e-commerce rules that will support consumer confidence in online and digital cross-border purchases. In particular, Online Dispute Resolution, whose deployment has started under the previous CEF Work Programme, offers a simple, fast, low cost and online solution to disputes between consumers and traders. Another example is the contribution of the Cyber Security DSI to the reinforcement of trust and security in digital services explicitly addressed in the DSM Communication.

Moreover it is to be expected that some DSIs in the field of eGovernment will be synergetic with the development and take-up of European cloud computing. In fact, CEF shares with the European Cloud Computing Strategy[4] the ambition to move towards 21st century public services that are interoperable, scalable and in line with the needs of a mobile population and businesses that want to benefit from the European digital single market.

2.2 Objectives, medium-term perspective and expected results

Objectives

The overall objective of the Connecting Europe Facility is to pursue economic growth and support the completion and functioning of the internal market in support of the competitiveness of the European economy.

CEF Telecom in particular is aimed at pursuing real improvements in daily life for citizens, businesses (including SMEs) and administrations through the deployment of solid trans-EU interoperable infrastructures based on mature technical and organisational solutions. CEF focuses on providing operational services which are ready to be deployed and which will be sustainable and maintained over time. CEF Telecom equally aims at promoting the deployment and modernisation of broadband networks that underpin these internet services by fostering the efficient flow of private and public investments[5].

Expected results and the medium-term perspective

CEF Telecom, in its part dedicated to the digital services infrastructure deployment, is designed to deploy this infrastructure across the EU, based on mature technical and

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[3] COM (2015)192 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions of 6 May 2015 on A Digital Single Market for Europe

[4] COM (2012)529 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions of 27 September 2012 on Unleashing the Potential of Cloud Computing in Europe

[5] Actions for Broadband are not included in this Work Programme.

organisational solutions to support exchanges and collaboration between citizens, businesses and public authorities. CEF Telecom 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.

The vision for CEF Telecom 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 Digital Single Market more effective and contributing to economic growth.

More specifically, this means that consumers 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 over time be supported by new faster broadband networks.

For businesses a successful CEF programme will mean more opportunities and better cross border public services. It will become less time-consuming and less costly to interact with public authorities. Transactions will be interoperable, secure and trustworthy across Europe.

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

CEF Telecom projects aim to be mutually reinforcing and complementary. There are many potential linkages between the digital services; in particular, Building Blocks such as eIdentification, eAuthentication, eDelivery, eInvoicing or Automated Translation and Cyber-Security enable the proper functioning of all the other DSIs listed in the CEF Telecom guidelines. It has to be noted that several Building Blocks are available following the work done within WP2014 and WP2015 and can be used by any organisation, being it public or private[67].

Furthermore, DSIs must be financially sustainable over time, where appropriate through funding sources other than CEF. Financial assistance will, wherever possible, be phased out over time and funding from sources other than CEF should be mobilised. Concrete scenarios as regards the continued financial sustainability of individual DSIs are presented for each DSI. A study has been launched within WP2015 to enquire about DSI sustainability.

The expected benefits and outcomes and the medium-term perspective are described in more detail for each service in Section 3. 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.

Communication

Digital Services can support the realisation of the Digital Single Market only if deployment is accompanied by widespread uptake and usage.

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[6] A full description of the available Building Block is available here
https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/cef/og_page/catalogue-building-blocks

[7] The machine translation service of the CEF.AT platform, MT@EC, is currently not available for use by private companies.

These three implementation aspects – deployment, uptake and usage – can only take place if supported by adequate communication. On one hand sectorial communities carrying out the deployment should be aware of the funding opportunities and of the benefits conveyed by the solutions offered. On the other, communication should make sure that citizens themselves share the vison of a European and interoperable eco-system of Digital Services. A widespread, effective communication succeeding in the defined goals, can only be achieved if the Commission and Member States join their effort.

2.3 CEF Telecommunications Work Programme 2016

2.3.1 Eligibility criteria and approach

According to Article 6 of the CEF Telecom 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.

While for the previous Work Programmes a selection had to be made based on DSI maturity, WP2016 may include all DSIs indicated in the legislation, as the background work carried out in parallel to the CEF programme for those DSIs which were not mature enough has advanced them to an acceptable level of development.

As a further eligibility criteria for funding, the present Work Programme establishes that proposals for generic services in the area of Safer Internet may only be submitted by a Member State or by entities established in a Member State or EEA country participating in the CEF Telecom programme where no Safer Internet Centre was selected for support under the previous Safer Internet call (CEF-TC-2015-1 of the 2015 Work Programme).

2.3.2 Work Programme content overview

The current work programme lists DSIs that are considered to meet the eligibility criteria in 2016. They are divided into three groups:

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

- **Mature DSI's which have already been supported under CEF in 2014 and CEF 2015** and for which additional funding is foreseen under the Work

Programme 2016: eIdentification and eSignature, eDelivery, eInvoicing, Public Open Data, Automated Translation, Cyber Security and eProcurement.

- **'New' mature DSI's** proposed on the basis of the criteria established by the CEF Telecom Guidelines, for Work Programme 2016: European Platform for the interconnection of European Business Registers (BRIS), Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information (EESSI) and the European eJustice portal.

Two DSI that were supported in previous Work Programmes, Online Dispute Resolution and eHealth, do not need funding for 2016 and thus are not included in the WP2016. Activities in these DSIs were launched in 2015 and first need to be completed before being expanded.

2.3.3 Indicative budget

The total estimated funding for the twelve DSIs for 2016 amounts to about EUR 101.65 million including the 2.73% contribution from EFTA countries. The table below shows the indicative 2016 funding for DSI projects with the split between core platforms and Generic Services. The table also includes activities funding the Broadband Technical Assistance and other support activities for Broadband for a total funding of EUR 2.721 million.

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.

Table 1 Overview of DSI projects and their indicative funding for 2016

Activity		Indicative funding WP 2016 (Euros)	Type of action	Indicative duration (years)
Well established DSIs				
Europeana	Core Platform	8 million	Procurement	**1**
	Generic Services	2 million	Call for proposals	**1.5**
Safer Internet	Core Platform	4 million	Procurement	**2.5**
	Generic Services	1.1 million	Calls for proposals	**2.5**
DSIs already supported under CEF WP2014 and WP2015				
eIdentification and eSignature	Generic Services	4.5 million	Call for proposals	1
eDelivery	Generic	0.5 million	Call for proposals	2

	Services			
eInvoicing	Generic Services	7 million	Call for proposals	**1**
Public Open Data	Generic Services	3.5 million	Call for proposals	**2**
Automated Translation - eTranslation	Core Platform	3 million	Procurement	**3**
	Generic Services	6.5 million	Call for proposals	**1.5**
Cyber Security	Generic Services	12 million	Call for proposals	**2**
eProcurement	Core Platform	3 million	Procurement	**4**
	Generic Services	4.5 million	Call for proposals	**1**
New DSIs in WP2016				
Business Registers Interconnection System – BRIS	Core Platform	5 million	Procurement	**3**
	Generic Services	3 million	Call for proposals	**1.5**
Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information – EESSI	Core Platform	5.5 million	Procurement	**2**
	Generic Services	24.5 million	Call for proposals	**2**
European e-Justice Portal	Generic Services	2 million	Call for proposals	**2**
Programme Support Actions				
Studies		2.3 million	Procurement	
* Broadband Benchmarking		0.5 million	Procurement	
* Agreement with IPTS		0.497 million	Administrative Agreement	
Communication		1 million	Procurement	
Other measures		0. 747 million		
* Broadband Technical Assistance		0.333 million	Procurement	

Activities marked with * are financed through the budget line 090301 "Preparing Broadband for public and/or private financing" while all other activities are financed via the budget line 090303 "Promoting interoperability, sustainable deployment, operation and upgrading of trans-European digital service infrastructures, as well as coordination at European level".

2.3.4 <u>Implementation mechanisms</u>

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.

The 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.

The Support Facility will coordinate the work of Broadband Technical Assistance contact points regarding the provision of technical assistance services to broadband project promoters. Broadband Technical Assistance contact points will not be financed under this Work Programme. Broadband projects will be supported by financial instruments which will be covered, in the separate cross-sectoral Work Programme.

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 (grants), whereby the EU provides financial support and the beneficiaries retain control over their results. The CEF Regulation stipulates that EU funding under grants cannot exceed 75 % of the eligible cost of each action;

- procurement to set up the Support Facility for Broadband Technical Assistance (partial financing).

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 2016

This section provides an overview of the individual DSIs, setting out what actions are planned in 2016 and the concrete benefits to citizens, businesses and administrations that would be achieved. The DSIs must be seen as essential elements of a well-functioning Digital Single Market (DSM). They provide key services to enable platforms from across Europe to interconnect and to make them accessible and user-friendly and therefore make the DSM work in practice. Attention is paid to highlight whether a DSI constitutes a Building Block and when use is made of existing Building Blocks.

Well-established DSIs

3.1 Access to digital resources of European heritage – Europeana

3.1.1 Background and rationale

With only around 10 %[8] of Europe's cultural heritage digitised and digitised resources still lacking visibility, especially across national boundaries, more digitised resources of relevance should be brought online, and their cross-border use and take-up actively pursued. Digital resources of European heritage have a big potential to serve as input for the economy of the cultural and creative sector, which accounts for around 4% of EU jobs and GDP.

Launched in 2008 as the common, multilingual access point to digital resources of European heritage, Europeana (www.europeana.eu) currently provides access to around 45 million objects from some 3,000 institutions across Europe, operating as a multi-sided platform intending to create value for end-users (Europeana portal), cultural heritage institutions (Europeana Pro) and creative re-use (Europeana Labs). To realise its full potential, the existing infrastructure must be maintained, enhanced and made more visible, allowing more content holders to connect, developing the mechanisms, relationships and processes to distribute improved data, and enforcing standards in interoperability of data, rights and models to foster user engagement and facilitate creative re-use.

On 31 May 2016, the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council adopted Council Conclusions on the role of Europeana for the digital access, visibility and use of European cultural heritage ('Council Conclusions'). The Council Conclusions[9] express continued support from Member States for Europeana, both from a cultural and a digital innovation perspective, and give renewed political guidance to the mission and priorities of Europeana. They invite the Commission to support the Europeana DSI by a combination of procurement and grants, under which procurement will cover the full cost of the core service platform to ensure its sustainability and grants will support user-oriented projects co-funded by Member States.

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[8] http://www.enumerate.eu/fileadmin/ENUMERATE/documents/ENUMERATE-Digitisation-Survey-2014.pdf

[9] http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9008-2016-INIT/en/pdf

3.1.2   Implementation 2016

3.1.2.1   On-going actions

Current CEF funding supports the Europeana Core Service Platform to establish the Europeana DSI as a sustainable platform of cultural heritage material, services and resources for access, distribution and re-use.

A new version of the platform introducing Europeana Collections has been released in 2015. Thematic collections are a new feature on the Europeana platform, offering visitors a curated user experience based on selected thematic content. Collections addressing i.a. the themes of music, art history, fashion and newspapers are currently under development. The Music and the Art History Collections were launched in January 2016.

Together with their cultural institutions, Ministries of Culture in the Members States have been invited to take part in Europeana 280, a campaign to select 10 pieces of art held in their country that have contributed to or created a European art movement. In early 2016, a competition open to the public will encourage people across the EU to engage with the nominated artworks. A virtual exhibition showcased the collection and was the focus of the formal launch of the Europeana Art History Collection during the Dutch Presidency.

3.1.2.2   Actions to be started in 2016

Building on the existing infrastructure, CEF support is intended both for the coordination, maintenance and further deployment of Europeana's Core Service Platform and the related membership/partnership programmes, as well as for Generic Services. The supported actions should use and promote interoperability, open standards and protocols, open formats, open sources and cross-platform approaches.

Core Service Platform:

Support for the operation of the Europeana core service platform will be awarded by way of procurement. The service to be rendered needs to address the full range of issues indicated below, building on previous work:

- seek, process and implement user feedback to offer a viable variety of options for users to discover, use and engage with content they like; refine fitness for purpose of value propositions in interaction with all target user groups; ensure that the platform functionality and other services meet those purposes;

- optimise data and aggregation infrastructure; work with content holders to improve data and metadata quality and sharing; create and implement efficient ingestion procedures for providers and aggregators; enable incorporation of new content, seeking to broaden the overview of Europe's cultural heritage; encourage new content holders to join Europeana, fostering their active involvement;

- improve content distribution mechanisms to accelerate discoverability, maximise visibility and take-up, and foster creative re-use in third-party products and services;

- improve/widen distribution channels through strong relationships and joint ventures with a broad range of stakeholders (e.g. apps developers) and CCIs to engage new audiences;

- coordinate, sustain and grow the network of data partners and experts;

- maintain an international, interoperable licensing framework catering for the needs of data partners, users and creative re-use;

- implement existing, and – where appropriate - develop new strategies, services and business models to help move towards financial sustainability.

- make all necessary dispositions to host the projects funded under generic services.

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

Generic Services:

The objective is to showcase cultural treasures of Europe and tell and illustrate gripping European stories on the Europeana platforml in the form of channels, taking visitors on a curated journey through Europe's rich and diverse cultural heritage.

Support will go to projects that select outstanding artefacts and/or works of art showcasing cultural movements of European significance. Together with exhaustive curatorial descriptions and rich contextual information, the chosen items will allow non-specialist visitors to gain an informed overview of the chosen movement(s). High resolution images and additional features such as audio or video presentations, 3D representations as well as downloadable resources will render the user experience highly appealing.

The selected items to be featured on the channel should complement and include items already accessible through Europeana. New items may already exist in digital form or be digitized for the project. The quantity of items should be sufficient to provide the informed overview. The quality of the content and the supporting curatorial descriptions should be appropriate to educate visitors whilst captivating their attention.

It is important to note that the Generic Services should respect the following conditions:

- The quality and the quantity of the digital content (and related curatorial descriptions) to feature on the channel by each content provider, as well as the criteria to be used for its selection, must be clearly identified. The quality of existing Europeana records to be included in the channel may need to be improved as part of the work..

- Applicants have to conform to the Europeana Data Model, the Europeana Publishing Framework and the Europeana Collection Design Specification[10].

- Metadata must include direct links to media files or embeddable viewers/players to enable the direct display of the objects on the Europeana channel. Digital representations of the highest resolution will provide users with a rich media experience.

- All works to be provided and the accompanying metadata need to be cleared for use in a Europeana channel. The rights statements should reflect the current copyright status of the object and comply with Europeana's available rights statements.

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[10] The **Europeana Collectionl Design Specification** is currently under development. Links to appropriate documents/information will be published as soon as they become available.

- The selected content should be contributed to Europeana through existing ingestion infrastructures (see Europeana Pro for information on how to contribute data). Where appropriate, use of the Europeana Cloud infrastructure is recommended.

The expected impact of projects to be supported under Generic Services for Europeana is to:

- give Europeana visitors an exciting, informative and memorable user experience;

- increase trans-European reach of Europeana by involving cultural institutions holding renowned collections or items of rare quality not yet participating in Europeana;

- complement Europeana collections by high-quality content representative of the diversity and richness of Europe's cultural heritage;

- increase the cross-border use of cultural material by third parties.

Additional specific conditions will be identified in the call text.

3.1.2.3 *Use of Building Blocks*

Europeana might benefit from the use of the Automated Translation Building Block. Contacts have been established between the Europeana Foundation and the Automated Translation Building Block owner using Europeana as a test bed to find ways of improving metadata translation.

3.1.2.4 *Benefits and expected outcomes*

The expected outcomes are efficient solutions for the trans-European accessibility of digital resources of European heritage, to increase their cross-border visibility, use and take-up, and to help raise awareness of and realise their full economic potential.

Connecting Europe by making its culture available for everyone enables users (whether citizens, students, researchers or cultural/creative entrepreneurs) to find and use relevant material from all across the continent. Standardising and making cultural resources held by Europe's memory organisations internet-friendly and exposing their collections to the wider world offers content creators and developers opportunities to feed on a pan-European wealth of digitised resources in a harmonised way for developing new products and services, adding value to the collections and providing new user experiences, in full compliance with copyright law.

Participation in Europeana offers cost savings for cultural institutions (on standardisation multilingualism and interoperability, data storage and transfer, exposure, know-how/cooperation). Cultural heritage resources represent a significant resource, e.g. for the tourism industry in promoting cultural tourism. Better access to heritage information attracts travellers, increases the length of stay and the related expenditure.

3.1.2.5 *Operation and stakeholder involvement*

As a distributed trans-European digital service infrastructure, Europeana is a joint effort by Europe's cultural institutions. The current central services are run by Europeana Foundation in cooperation with a number of national, domain and thematic aggregators supporting the aggregation of metadata, distribution partners supporting re-use and distribution of Europeana data as well as expert partners supporting work including

dissemination, digitisation statistics (ENUMERATE Observatory), audience development and business model innovation.

A number of national aggregators also support Europeana as associate partners in innovating the aggregation infrastructure and improving data quality.

The Recommendation on the digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation[11] calls upon Member States to contribute to the further development of Europeana. The Member States Expert Group on Digitisation and Digital Preservation[12], 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. Europeana Foundation reports regularly on Europeana activities to the Expert Group which is chaired by the Commission and meets twice a year.

In February 2015, Europeana Network Association was set up to give the Europeana Network, a community of experts working in the field of digital heritage and united by a common mission to expand and improve access to Europe's cultural digital heritage, the opportunity to participate in the governance of Europeana.

3.1.2.6 *Financial sustainability*

Most Member States have made some direct financial contributions to Europeana (in total EUR ~3.5 million since 2008), on a voluntary ad-hoc basis, to provide co-funding for EU-grants. Council conclusions on access, visibility and use of European digital cultural heritage and in particular on the role of Europeana, which are being prepared under the current Dutch presidency, will explore further possible models for the medium and long term sustainability of Europeana.

3.1.2.7 *Type of financial support*

The Europeana core service platform will be funded through procurement (one direct service contract for the minimum duration of one year).

Title:	Access to digital resources of European heritage – Europeana **Core Service Platform**
Indicative total budget for 2016:	EUR 8 million
Type of financial support:	Procurement (1 new direct service contract)
Funding rate:	100% of eligible costs
Indicative duration of the action:	One year minimum
Indicative publication date:	Q3 2016
Tenders need to build on the existing Europeana infrastructure.	

Generic Services will be financed through grants. Proposals may be submitted by consortia composed by a minimum of three organisations based in three different Member States and/or EEA countries participating in the CEF Telecom programme.

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

[12] http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32007D0320&from=EN

Title:	Access to digital resources of European heritage – Europeana **Generic Services**
Indicative total budget for 2016	EUR 2 million
Type of financial support:	Grants – Call for proposals
Funding rate:	50% of the total eligible costs
Indicative duration of the action:	18 months
Indicative publication date:	Q3 2016
Proposals need to build on the existing Europeana infrastructure.	

3.2 Safer Internet service infrastructure – for making a better Internet for children

3.2.1 Background and rationale

In today's digital society children and youth are increasingly important actors as consumers and creators of online services and content. They spend a significant part of their time online, on a diverse range of interconnected and mobile devices and at an ever younger age, often without adult supervision. However, as a group, children have specific vulnerabilities and needs: they need accessible and appropriate content and services; adequate protection and support from the effects of harmful content, contact (grooming, online sexual abuse) and conduct (cyberbullying, hate speech, sexting); and the digital skills and competences to use the internet and other online technologies to their advantage, safely and responsibly.

In response to these evolving needs, in May 2012, the Commission adopted the communication European Strategy for a Better Internet for Children (BIK)[13] which sets out a coherent EU-wide strategy to provide concrete measures for making the internet a trusted environment for children. Since 2014 the Safer Internet digital service infrastructure funded under CEF Telecom is replacing the Safer Internet programme as the main funding instrument for implementing the BIK strategy.

3.2.2 Implementation 2016

3.2.2.1 On-going actions

The actions launched by the WP2014 initiated the deployment of the Safer Internet infrastructure for the delivery of services that are accessed and delivered either at EU level or via interoperable national Safer Internet Centres (SICs). Through the core platform, SICs are sharing resources and good practices and providing services to their users, including industry. Generic Services are supported through grants under the WP2014 and WP2015 in 28 EU Member States as well as in Norway and Iceland.

3.2.2.2 Actions to be started in 2016

Core Service Platform

Building on the existing infrastructure, the objective in 2016 is to continue supporting the coordination, maintenance and further deployment of the core platform providing access

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[13] COM(2012) 196 final

to and delivery of child-appropriate and child-safety related content, including databases that support helpline and hotline transactions. More specifically, the services include:

- a single entry point to online tools, resources and services for SICs to: collaborate on resource development, assess and exchange good practices, materials and services in support of awareness raising and teaching eSafety; compile statistics at European level to measure the impact of activities; facilitate and support youth participation by incorporating a safe, dedicated space for youth engagement;

- back office reporting facilities for helplines and hotlines including secure environments for gathering and sharing data of child sexual abuse images and videos to enhance hotlines' capability and capacity to analyse, identify and remove illegal content;

- a central point of access for the general public to find information, guidance and resources on issues related to children's use of online technologies and services, including access to online quality content dedicated to children;

- coordination of the development of educational content on online safety, released as Open Educational Resources, catering for the needs of all child age groups;

- capacity building, including development of tutorials and training opportunities for the community of use;

- stakeholder outreach by organising pan-European events, campaigns and meetings involving policymakers, industry, researchers, NGOs and youth to discuss the latest trends, risks and solutions related to child online safety.

Generic Services

The objective in 2016 is to support generic services provided by Safer Internet Centres in the Member States where no Safer Internet Centre was selected for support under the previous Safer Internet call (CEF-TC-2015-1 of the 2015 Work Programme), building on their interoperability with the EU core platform and its services. The SICs will maintain and expand national platforms to run a range of safer internet services providing:

1. An **awareness centre** for empowering children, their parents and teachers to make the best 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).

   Tasks for awareness-raising:

   i.   Devise informative awareness campaigns and resources targeting children, parents, grand-parents, care-takers, 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, promote awareness of parents and children on online quality content and experiences, and make the associated resources available through their services;

   ii. Engage with children and young people from different demographic groups by setting up a youth platform, including organising regular youth participation activities, allowing them to express their views and pool their knowledge and experience of using online technologies.

   iii. 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;

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

2. Online **helpline services** for reporting and dealing with harmful contact (eg grooming, online abuse), conduct (e.g. cyberbullying, hate speech, sexting) and content online.

    Tasks for helplines:
    i. Offer one-to-one conversations, online and on 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 material.

    Tasks for hotlines:
    i. Establish and/or operate a hotline, accessible by PC and mobile devices, to receive information from the public relating to illegal content of child pornography, and if deemed appropriate racism and xenophobia;
    ii. Draw up a manual of procedures in cooperation with law enforcement authorities and in accordance with best practice guidelines;
    iii. Cooperate with the network of hotlines and fully use and connect to the technical infrastructure provided by the EU core service platform;
    iv. Undertake a preliminary assessment of the legality of the content reported and trace its origin, and forward the report to the body for action (ISP, the police or corresponding hotline) including systematic notice to the host provider of content assessed as child pornography and monitoring of the take-down; forward suspicions of illegal content to certain stakeholders (ISP, the police or corresponding hotline) for further assessment;
    v. Ensure compatibility with data formats of the EU core service platform and provide statistics required for measuring the impact and effectiveness of the network (e.g. time of removal of the illegal content).

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.

3.2.2.3 Use of Building Blocks

Safer Internet considers the possible use of the Automated Translation and the eIdentification Building Blocks: Automated Translation to translate the content uploaded

on the Core Service Platform and eIdentification for age-verification/identification of the minors using the youth space provided by the platform.

3.2.2.4 Benefits and expected outcomes

The ultimate user beneficiary is the citizen, primarily children, who because of increased awareness and empowerment strategies will be given the possibility to improve their digital skills and competences and be active and create in a safer digital environment, and to get better choice of quality content and active experiences specifically designed for them. Parents, care-takers, teachers and professionals working with children at risk 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 impact of awareness campaigns, and from cross-border provision of associated services (helplines, hotlines) and of child-rated content.

3.2.2.5 Operation and stakeholder involvement

Member States will be actively involved in the implementation and deployment process of the Generic Services provided through the national SICs. The governance structure of the DSI as a whole will reflect the roles of Member States, of industry, of civil society and the Commission. This will be met through an executive group from the SICs, their coordinating networks/associations, and the Commission, possibly with input from a group of Member States representatives that was formed in the context of monitoring the policy indicators resulting from a study on benchmarking Safer Internet policies in the Member States[14].

This is demonstrably a multi-stakeholder domain, involving public sector, technology and media industry, and civil society (mainly children's rights NGOs). In the short term, relevant stakeholders at the national level will continue being involved through the Advisory Boards set-up by the SICs and as operational capacity is developed, it is foreseen that stakeholders will get a more active role in the national implementation of services.

3.2.2.6 Financial sustainability

It should be possible to progressively decrease EC funding for the operation and further extension of the DSI with support from Member States and the private sector. The following three major approaches will be considered for generating additional resources to complement CEF funding: 1) structural approach with the objective to consider some possibilities with specific companies, asking them to earmark some revenue to be injected in certain activities to be developed by the Core Service 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.

However, the long-term financial sustainability will to some extent have to depend on European funding since it is unlikely that the concerted effort for cross-border sharing of resources and practices will happen without this. Also, EC funding at a certain level will offer to the public a benchmark of objectivity and trustworthiness.

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[14] http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/study-better-internet-kids-policies-member-states

3.2.2.7 *Type of financial support*

The Core Service Platform will be implemented through procurement contracts.

Title:	Safer Internet service infrastructure – for making a better Internet for children
Indicative total budget for 2016:	EUR 4 million for the Core Service Platform
Type of financial support:	Procurement (1-2 new direct contracts)
Funding rate:	100 %
Indicative duration of the action:	30 months
Indicative publication date:	Q1 2016

It is intended to co-fund the generic services through grants covering the period of 30 months. The funding rate is up to 50% of eligible costs.

Proposals may only be submitted by a Member State or by entities established in a Member State or EEA country participating in the CEF Telecom programme where no Safer Internet Centre was selected for support under the previous Safer Internet call (CEF-TC-2015-1 of the 2015 Work Programme)[15].

Title:	Safer Internet generic services – for making a better and safer internet for children
Indicative total budget for 2016:	EUR 1.1 million
Type of financial support:	Call for proposals - grants
Funding rate:	50% of the total eligible costs
Indicative duration of the action:	30 months
Indicative publication date :	Q3 2016

Mature DSIs which have previously been supported under CEF and for which additional funding is foreseen under WP2016

3.3 Electronic identification and authentication — eIdentification and eSignature

3.3.1 <u>Background and rationale</u>

Under the heading 'Electronic identification and authentication – eIdentification and eSignature' the WP2014 launched the eIdentification (eID) and eSignature Building Blocks DSIs providing funding for the Core Service Platforms of these DSIs until the end

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[15] *The list is available here: https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility/cef-telecom/cef-telecom-projects*

of 2017. The provision of such services can now benefit from the new regulatory framework established by the Regulation (EU) n° 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on *electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market*[16] and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC (hereinafter eIDAS Regulation).

In 2014, CEF likewise supported Generic Services for the setting up and maintenance of Pan-European Proxy Services (PEPS) or Virtual Identity Providers (V-IDP) as well as for the integration of the eID DSI in existing online platforms.

In 2015, CEF called for proposals and provided financial support to promote the uptake and speed up the use of the eID DSI. The financial support was focussed on provision of eID for access to public services. The uptake and use of the eID DSI by the private sector who are potentially the biggest users and contributors to the Digital Single Market still needs to be promoted.

3.3.2 <u>Implementation 2016</u>

3.3.2.1 On-going actions

Member States are building eIDAS compliant interfaces linking their national infrastructures. Developments of links within the national infrastructures to public services facilitating the use of electronic identification means are taking place. These are supported by the WP2014 and WP2015 respectively.

3.3.2.2 Actions to be started in 2016

eIdentification:

In order to promote the uptake and use of the eID DSI amongst private sector entities established in the EU and EEA countries participating in the CEF Telecom programme, Generic Services will be supported through this programme. Through a number of events with private sector stakeholders focussing on the eIDAS Regulation a picture for take up has emerged. In certain sectors (such as banking) the need and desire to take up regulated cross border electronic identification are the high due to the need for frictionless customer service and regulatory requirements.

The objective of the supported actions is to integrate the eID DSI in existing e-service/system/online platforms in a few selected business sectors presenting potential high volume cross-border transactions, such as banking, electronic/internet payment services, other financial services, insurance and aviation. While the primary focus is on these sectors, other sectors where there is a demonstrable realisable benefit are not excluded.

eSignature:

In addition, Generic Services will also support the uptake and use of eSignature DSI amongst public sector entities involved in the establishment and operation of the Points of Single Contact under Directive 2006/123/EC on services in the internal market.

Moreover, regarding the eSignature DSI, the objective of the supported action is to ensure the integration of the tools provided by the eSignature DSI by public sector bodies in order to facilitate the cross-border completion of electronic procedures by companies applying for administrative decisions with public administrations of other Member

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[16] http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32014R0910&rid=1

States. In this respect, priority should be given to the public and private sector bodies which act or provide their e-services via the points of single contact under Directive 2006/123/EC on services in the internal market.

3.3.2.3   Use of Building Blocks

Both eIdentification and eSignature are stand-alone Building Blocks, which are used by other DSIs, but not themselves making use of any other one.

3.3.2.4   Benefits and expected outcomes

The uptake and use of the eID and eSignature DSI by the private sector who are potentially the biggest users and contributors to the Digital Single Market will help achieve the fulfilment of the Digital Single Market. Actions in 2014 and 2015 have demonstrated that some business sectors have more potential than others for take up of eID in domestic and cross border scenarios. The sectors are banking, electronic/internet payment services, other financial services, insurance and aviation. By primarily focussing on these sector-specific services the take up of eID is more assured and in view of the importance of the sectors will generate a tipping point for broader take up. Moreover, the integration of the eSignature DSI by public sector bodies will improve the cross-border acceptance of e-signature, boost business mobility and increase e-signatures interoperability.

3.3.2.5   Operation and stakeholder involvement

With regard to the Core Service Platform set up under WP2014, the Commission services are in charge of the operation and maintenance work related to the DSIs as such. Member States play an active role in the implementation and deployment process, in particular to facilitate and accelerate widespread acceptance and use. Governance and operational management arrangements are now in place consisting of representatives of the Member States and the relevant Commission services. Cooperation with selected representatives from the selected business sectors of services is foreseen along with the creation of new sector specific Building Block DSI's. The group of stakeholders is expected to broaden as take up of eID and eSignature extends. The action shall be coordinated with the activities related to the eIDAS implementation in order to avoid duplication of efforts and costs. An outline of the governance structure is available at https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/cef/document/it-governance-model-cef-building-block-digital-service-infrastructures-dsis.

3.3.2.6   Financial sustainability

In respect to long-term sustainability of the Core Service Platform set up under WP2014, two scenarios are presently considered: in the first scenario, this Building Block DSI would be financed through contributions from DSIs using the service, which would apply to DSIs funded via the CEF as well as DSI funded via other sources; in the second scenario, the operational costs would be covered by transactional revenues, plus possibly an annual service charge for the gateways.

3.3.2.7   Type of financial support

Generic Services will be financed through grants. Proposals may be submitted by consortia consisting of at least 4 entities from at least one Member State or EEA countries participating in the CEF Telecom programme, to integrate the eID and/or eSignature DSI in an existing e-service/system/online platform operating cross border to

enable private and public sector entities (including local administrations) to accept issued eIDs and eSignature from any Member State of the consortium or wider. Of the available budget, indicatively 0.5 million is expected to be allocated to eSignature proposals.

Title:	eIdentification and eSignature
Indicative total budget for 2016:	EUR 4,5 million for Generic Services
Type of financial support:	Grants – Call for proposals
Funding rate:	75% of the total eligible costs
Indicative duration of the action:	1 year
Indicative publication date	Q2 2016

3.4 Electronic delivery of documents — eDelivery

3.4.1 Background and rationale

Under the heading 'Electronic delivery of documents - eDelivery' the WP2014 launched of the eDelivery Building Block DSIs providing funding for the Core Service Platforms of this DSIs until the end of 2017.

In 2014, CEF Telecom did not foresee support of Generic Services. Generic Services were supported in 2015 to deploy access points.

The provision of such services can now benefit from the new regulatory framework established by the Regulation (EU) n° 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC (hereinafter eIDAS Regulation).

However, the uptake and use of the eDelivery DSI need to be promoted.

3.4.2 Implementation 2016

3.4.2.1 On-going actions

In 2015, Generic Services are supported through grants with the purpose of establishing access points allocated following calls for proposals.

3.4.2.2 Actions to be started in 2016

To promote the uptake and speed up the use of the eDelivery DSI amongst both public and private entities established in the EU and EEA countries participating in the CEF Telecom programme, Generic Services will be supported through grants under the 2016 budget with the objective of:

    a. deploying access points and/or operating access points for one year;

    b. deploying Service Metadata Publishers and/or operating Service Metadata Publishers for one year;

    c. upgrade of data exchange solutions (Commercial Off-the-Shelf (COTS), Open-Source Software (OSS) and other) to support, and therefore fully comply with, the CEF eDelivery standards.

The supported Generic Services should contribute to the compliance with the requirements set in the eIDAS Regulation to allow their use for the provisioning of

electronic registered delivery services, including qualified ones. More generally the supported Generic Services should also contribute to the compliance with the requirements set in relation to deployment and/or operation of access points within other sectorial European Regulations (e.g. eInvoicing, transport, environment, energy, health, public e-procurement, justice…).

The objective is to increase uptake and use of the eDelivery DSI by supporting the setting up of additional access points and service metadata publishers linking to the EU Core Service Platform in order to support the cross-border exchange of electronic documents between both public and private as well as between such entities and citizens and businesses. Access points and service metadata publishers will be located throughout the Member States and the EEA countries participating in the CEF Telecom programme.

3.4.2.3   Use of Building Blocks

The eDelivery DSI is a stand-alone Building Block, which is used by other DSIs, but not itself making use of any other one.

3.4.2.4   Benefits and expected outcomes

The access point and service metadata publishers should enable interoperability between the European level and the level of the Member States regardless the standards in use within each of the Member States. In addition, compliance with the requirements set in the eIDAS Regulation will ensure the legal certainty of, and provide with a specific legal effect to, the cross-border transmission of documents.

The eDelivery DSI is a key enable for building a European Digital Single Market. It will ensure convenient and secure cross-border transactions by allowing the implementation of interoperable solutions working within the trusted legal framework for electronic registered delivery services provided in the eIDAS Regulation.

3.4.2.5   Operation and stakeholder involvement

With regard to the Core Service Platform set up under WP2014, the Commission is in charge of the set-up, operation and maintenance work. Member States play an active role in the implementation and deployment process, in particular to facilitate and accelerate the widespread acceptance and use. Governance and operational management arrangements are now in place and consist of representatives of the Member States and the Commission Cooperation with selected representatives from selected business sectors of services is foreseen. To this end, a technical sub-group is to be set up in the context of the eIDAS expert group assisting the Commission in the implementation of the eIDAS Regulation. Its aim is to discuss technical issues relating to the operation of Core Service Platforms for eDelivery services. A description is available at https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/cef/document/it-governance-model-cef-building-block-digital-service-infrastructures-dsis

3.4.2.6   Financial sustainability

In respect to long-term sustainability of the Core Service Platform set up under WP2014, two scenarios are presently considered: in the first scenario, this Building Block DSI would be financed through contributions from DSIs using the service, which would apply to DSIs funded via the CEF as well as DSI funded via other sources; in the second scenario, the operational costs would be covered by transactional revenues, plus possibly an annual service charge for the gateways. In addition, the study on "Long-Term sustainability of Digital Service Infrastructures" which is to be launched by adoption of this Work Programme, includes specifically eDelivery, and will provide additional information on how to achieve long term sustainability for this DSI.

3.4.2.7 *Type of financial support*

Generic Services will be financed through grants. Proposals may be submitted by consortia consisting of at least 4 entities from one or more Member State(s) and/or EEA countries participating in the CEF Telecom programme.

Title:	Electronic delivery of documents - eDelivery
Indicative total budget for 2016:	EUR 0.5 million for Generic Services
Type of financial support:	Grants – Call for proposals
Funding rate:	75% of the total eligible costs
Indicative duration of the action:	24 months
Indicative publication date:	Q2 2016

3.5 Electronic Invoicing - eInvoicing

3.5.1 Background and rationale

For the CEF eInvoice DSI Building Block, the Work Programme 2014 provided the funding of the Core Service Platform until the end of 2017. The WP2015 provides funding for Generic Services to promote the uptake of eInvoicing solutions in public administrations.

The Work Programme 2016 will provide Generic Services not only to promote the uptake by public administrations and entities of eInvoicing solutions but also to support solutions which will facilitate implementation of the latest draft of the European standard on electronic invoicing and a set of ancillary standardisation deliverables (hereby referred to as "EN"[17]). The drafting of the European standard by the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) is requested by the Commission in support of the eInvoicing Directive 2014/55/EU[18].

3.5.2 Implementation 2016

3.5.2.1 *On-going actions*

During fall 2015, according to the e-Invoicing Directive, CEN has launched an inquiry on the draft European Standard for e-Invoicing[19].When the call will be published in 2016 a draft version of the European Standard will be available. It is planned that the standard will be published in March 2017 and may contain some final minor amendments with respect to its draft version.

3.5.2.2 *Actions to be started in 2016*

Three activities will be supported in WP2016. One will be the uptake of eInvoicing solutions, the second will support service providers in implementing the EN and the third complements the previous two with the integration of eDelivery services.

- **Uptake of eInvoicing solutions**: To promote the uptake and speed up the use of the eInvoicing DSI amongst both public and private entities established in the EU and EEA countries participating in the CEF Telecom programme, Generic Services

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[17] Applications for this action will not be examined until the referred act has been adopted.

[18] http://ec.europa.eu/DocsRoom/documents/8649/attachments/1/translations/en/renditions/native

[19] http://standards.cen.eu/dyn/www/f?p=204:22:0

will be supported through grants under the 2016 budget with the purpose of putting solutions for the exchange of eInvoices in place. The appropriate technical solutions and organisational set-up will have to be put in place to make sure that, in particular, regional and local authorities can exchange eInvoices with economic operators at an affordable cost for them. To foster interoperability between Member States, preference will be given to solutions that are already on the market and which allow cross-border exchanges of eInvoices. Solutions should be based on existing technical specifications developed within the framework of European standardisation organisations such as CEN (CWA 16356-CEN MUG and CWA 16562-CEN BII) mentioned in the eInvoice Directive 2014/55/EU and take into account the results of Large-Scale Pilot Projects like PEPPOL implemented within the framework of the Policy Support Programme of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP). Moreover, other solutions which are based on European or international standards in the domain of eInvoicing can also be considered, provided that they envisage compliance with the EN on electronic invoicing.

- **Support to implementation of the EN**: To pave the way to the EN in existing solutions. The EN draft will be ready in 2016 alongside a list of syntaxes that supports the EN. It is important that existing solutions implement this EN to support the standardization process in CEN through feed-back from the market and to finally contribute to achieving the objective of the eInvoicing Directive.

- **Integration of eDelivery services**: All the Generic Services projects under this section are expected, for the purpose of document delivery, to either directly deploy the eDelivery Building Block (See section 3.4), or use eDelivery through a service provider. If eDelivery is not deployed, the beneficiaries must prove the use of eDelivery services though a service provider **for cross-border communication as the minimal accepted scope**. The specific objectives of this activity are:

    a. to deploy access points and/or to operate access points for one year;

    b. to deploy Service Metadata Publishers and/or to operate Service Metadata Publishers for one year;

    c. to upgrade data exchange solutions (Commercial Off-the-Shelf (COTS), Open-Source Software (OSS) and other) to support, and therefore fully comply with, the CEF eDelivery standards.

The Core Service Platform of the eDelivery DSI, set up under WP2014, will make available a testing platform to ensure that the deployment of eDelivery in this sector complies with the technical specifications defined by the eDelivery DSI. The deployment of eDelivery will also contribute to the compliance with the requirements set out in the eIDAS Regulation (Regulation (EU) 910/2014).

3.5.2.3 Use of Building Blocks

To support the exchange through one single European infrastructure, solutions are encouraged to make use of the eDelivery Building Block. This can be implemented by including eDelivery into the Generic Service action proposed.

3.5.2.4 *Benefits and expected outcomes*

The objective is to increase uptake and use of the CEF eInvoicing DSI by supporting authorities, especially regional and local authorities, in meeting the requirements of the new eInvoicing Directive 2014/55/EU.

An additional benefit is to support service providers to implement the EN into their solutions. This will help in return to finalize the EN and to provide practical experience.

3.5.2.5 *Operation and stakeholder involvement*

With regard to the Core Service Platform set up under WP2014, Member States are actively involved in the implementation and deployment process, to ease and speed up widespread acceptance and use, while the European Commission is in charge of the operational management of the service. The Multi-stakeholder forum on eInvoicing is the advisory body to the Commission for this CEF DSI.

3.5.2.6 *Financial sustainability*

The long-term sustainability in respect to the uptake of the implementation of eInvoicing solutions beyond 2020 is not necessary as the Directive on eInvoicing mandates until then. The long-term sustainability of the EN will likely be done by CEN.

For the long-term sustainability for the Core Service Platform, the CEF eInvoicing DSI will explore opportunities to complement CEF funding.

3.5.2.7 *Type of financial support*

Generic Services will be financed through grants. Proposals may be submitted by consortia consisting of at least 4 entities from one or several Member States or EEA countries participating in the CEF Telecom programme, which support one of the actions mentioned above. The first activity -*Uptake of eInvoicing solutions*- is specifically targeting contracting authorities in Member States who operate on local and regional level. The second activity -*Support to implementation of the EN*- targets solution providers, for integrating the EN in their existing eInvoicing solutions, and procuring authorities who are already using eInvoicing solutions for integrating the EN. For the third activity -*Integration of eDelivery services*- there will be support only if integrated in a proposal for one of the other activities.

Title:	eInvoicing
Indicative total budget for 2016:	EUR 7 million for Generic Services
Type of financial support:	Grants – Call for proposals
Funding rate:	75% of the total eligible costs
Indicative duration of the action:	12 months
Indicative publication date:	Q3 2016

3.6 Access to re-usable public sector information - Public Open Data

3.6.1 <u>Background and rationale</u>

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 an essential component of the EU strategy for stimulating new business opportunities and addressing societal challenges, with a huge but still underexploited potential for re-use, including at the cross-border and cross-sectoral level. While open data portals exist at national, local and sometimes sectoral levels (e.g. for environmental data, spatial information, …), 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), whose deadline for transposition expired on 18 July 2015.

The infrastructure providing Open Data digital services is based on two components, the Core Service Platform and the Generic Services supporting the creation and/or harmonisation of content. The infrastructure should be based on open innovation concepts, reuse open source components where applicable and create an environment for services to be developed in an easy and secure way. The Core Service Platform will make use of the Automated Translation Building Block for facilitating the multilingual accessibility to metadata and possibly data, as well as of the Electronic identification and authentication Building Block for the provision of optional value added services as well the possible identified access to Member States resources.

The Open Data infrastructure, through its pan-European portal, provides an interface for accessing infrastructures distributed over a huge number of European and Member State's data repositories. The infrastructure as such provides a technical platform for data discovery and access, together with tools facilitating data transformation, until data harmonisation is achieved, and exploitation.

The actions launched by the 2014 Work Programme initiated the deployment of a large scale open data infrastructure at the European level, in particular in implementing a pan-European Open Data portal, launched in November 2015. Work Programme 2015 also includes assistance to administrations in EU Member States and third countries in the implementation of open data policies and in particular supporting the preparation of some high quality datasets to be published on their respective data portals, in view of their eventual inclusion in the pan-European data portal infrastructure.

3.6.2   Implementation 2016

3.6.2.1   On-going actions

The following activities were included in WP2015:

- Deployment of the first version of the portal;

- Coordination with other contributing DSIs (Automated Translation, eID);

- Contact and support to Member States (Public Sector Information group meetings in April and November 2015, landscaping in preparation of targeted training to Public Administrations);

- Call for proposals Open Data Generic Services WP2015.

3.6.2.2   Actions to be started in 2016

The full transposition of the revised PSI directive is going to boost the availability of new open datasets; the opening of the pan-European Open Data portal is expected to increase the demand for more Open Data to re-use. In 2016 the Work Programme will continue

the support to the generation, aggregation and cross-border/cross domain harmonisation of open datasets at all levels of government, including cities, integrating the support provided by WP2015. In addition, it will foster the availability of harmonised and detailed datasets content description for their full and informed use. Proposed actions will have to be fully coordinated with the ongoing activities related to the deployment of the Open Data infrastructure, complementing the assistance already provided to the preparation of high quality metadata and datasets.

Proposed actions will aim at supporting actions re-using information made discoverable/available through the pan-European portal, where appropriate in combination with other sources of information, such as the INSPIRE geo-portal, via operational and sustainable end-user dedicated solutions (mobile devices applications, web sites, …) or (web)services. The Work Programme will encourage the deployment of new services by innovation ecosystems supported by open platforms (such as FIWARE) in domains reaching significant critical mass.

Currently, licences are developed nationally or sectorally and only a certain number of countries make use of international licensing suites such as Creative Commons. Proposed actions should also aim at improving usability of Open Data across borders through a convergence of licensing conditions for Open Data in Europe, i.a. by way of progressive alignment of identical licensing conditions in existing national licences (reduction of ambiguity due to different ways of formulating identical conditions), thus facilitating their machine readability.

Proposals should also aim at proposing a EU-wide assessment model demonstrating the impacts of open data. The objective would be to provide a toolkit for the national administrations (standard procedures, software solutions which might include the processing of open data, harmonised questionnaires, key indicators, etc.) to facilitate ex-post evaluation of the economic and social impacts brought about by the re-use of public sector information in Europe.

Proposals need to address all the issues listed below:

- Facilitate the re-use of datasets belonging to the same domain and generated by different authorities in cross-border areas, e.g. by harmonising their metadata beyond the use of the same metadata model (minimum degree of harmonisation provided by default by the pan-European Open Data portal) and possibly the data themselves, e.g. through their aggregation, as well as by improving their overall quality. Where appropriate, these same activities may also be proposed to be applied to more than one of the priority domains mentioned below;

- Address both technical and legal issues, therefore including the adoption of harmonised conditions for re-use (be it through direct access or through a provided service);

- Address priority domains as defined in Commission notice 2014/C 240/01 "Guidelines on recommended standard licences, datasets and charging for the reuse of documents" (i.e. in the domains of geospatial data, earth observation and environment, transport, statistics, companies. Other categories may be considered, depending on the circumstances (relevance to strategic goals, market developments, etc.));

- Streamline the metadata/data production process and implement a sustainable process to ensure long term maintenance of the harmonised datasets of the chosen

common data model (see for example the maintenance of the INSPIRE harmonised data specifications[20]) and facilitating updates beyond their initial aggregation;

- Liaise with ongoing activities (CEF Work Programme 2014 including Automated Translation available facilities, the Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations (ISA) Programme, EC funded projects, ESIF) already providing assistance for fostering uptake on public open data supply;

- Analyse foreseen benefits for citizens and/or businesses as a result of the proposed action (opening up of data, harmonisation of licence condition, etc.).

3.6.2.3   Use of Building Blocks

The translation of static content, as well as the real time translation of dynamic content such as search specification, search results, metadata records, etc., will make use whenever available of the appropriate services provided by the Automated Translation Building Block. The first version of the Open Data portal, scheduled for Q4 2015, will make use of the MT@EC services provided by Commission DG for Translation and will progressively integrate the full Automated Translation Building Block capabilities as soon as available.

The authentication of users' identity for the provision of personalised value added services on a voluntary basis (e.g. query search storage, identified provision of feedback and request for support, etc.), as well as for the access to Member States resources for which an identification is required, will make use of the eIdentification Building Block, exploiting ECAS and national eIDs whenever possible. The ECAS identification services will be already embedded in the first version of the portal scheduled for Q4 2015.

3.6.2.4   Benefits and expected outcomes

The improved availability of harmonised content at the EU level will facilitate its cross border and cross domain re-use. Beneficiaries are the private sector, through the development of value added services, and administrations at all levels of government, including cities, through the streamlining of the production of interoperable content as well as its re-use and duplication reduction. 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. Innovation ecosystems of startups can strongly benefit from open data and by using open platforms entrepreneurs can develop apps with high social and economic impact.

Moreover, the Communication 'A Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe', in its section 4.1 (Building a data economy), sets out an action under which the Commission 'will encourage access to public data to help drive innovation'. This refers in particular to "open data", made freely available for re-use to everyone for both commercial and non-commercial purposes. The pan-European Open Data digital service infrastructure under the Connecting Europe Facility programme is an indispensable tool for ensuring the fulfilment of this action. With the growing importance of Big Data analytics and the ever-increasing capacities at both technical and human level to extract meaning from data, Open Data is becoming part of the overall development towards a data-driven economy. 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

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[20]   http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/index.cfm/pageid/2

combination of open public data, across the EU. Availability of good quality, reliable and interoperable datasets and enabling data portals infrastructure will allow the full potential of Open Data to be exploited.

The setting up of the portal provides a one-stop-shop to Open Data across the EU. It links to the Open Data available in the different European countries and serves as a stimulus to release and link additional datasets and support countries struggling to implement open data policies. This also strongly contributes to the DSM priority on an inclusive e-Society, in particular helping in achieving cross-border interoperability and facilitating easy interaction with citizens. Finally, in implementing a standard metadata model for the portal catalogue as well as commonly used open source software components for its architecture, the portal supports the DSM objective of boosting competitiveness through interoperability and standardisation.

Complementing the investments in the portal, a decisive action towards the development of new services in open platforms will promote an innovative environment that will bring benefits to the whole society.

The EU-wide assessment model demonstrating the impacts of open data would enable an EU-wide, objective and continuous benchmarking exercise, facilitating evidence-based policy making on the EU and national level.

3.6.2.5   Operation and stakeholder involvement

Member States are involved through the Public Sector Information group and its subgroup on open data portals, whose members are representatives of Member States and relevant Commission services. The process for the definition of a long term governance model will be linked to the parallel definition of the business model required to guarantee the financial sustainability of the Open Data platform. The appropriate links with other possible contributing Building Blocks following the evolution of the CEF programme will also be established.

The governance model is implemented in line with the non-paper on the IT Governance of CEF Building Block Digital Service Infrastructures resulting from the collaboration between the Commission and the CEF Expert Group.

Apart from the involvement of public authorities and the clear adoption of standards, the governance should actively involve the private sector interested in developing services and apps for citizens, exploiting the power of open data.

3.6.2.6   Financial sustainability

European funding for the deployment of the open data infrastructure is necessary to initiate a structured process of data aggregation and harmonised cross border / cross domain access at the EU level.

Once a critical mass of pan-European interoperable content becomes available, and the expected benefits deriving from its availability will become evident, it should be possible to progressively decrease EC funding for its operation and further extension, with support from Member States (in-kind or direct) and possibly the private sector contributing to its long term sustainability.

Long-term sustainability with no or much reduced funding for the core platform operation and maintenance will be sought where possible. Funding for supporting content provision, adaptation and transformation will be progressively reduced, in view of a complete withdrawal or minimisation to specific domains from 2020 onwards. In the

long term the harmonisation process will lead to the generation of interoperable datasets at the source, not requiring any further financial support for content creation and update.

3.6.2.7 Type of financial support

Generic Services will be financed through grants. Proposals may be submitted by consortia composed by a minimum of two public administrations from two different Member States and EEA countries participating in the CEF Telecom programme. The consortia should involve organisations with the necessary complementary expertise to attain the above-mentioned outcomes, with a minimum of two public administrations, directly or indirectly representing the data providers. If appropriate the consortia may also involve data users and/or private sector organisations (e.g. for providing technical support). Proposals requesting a contribution up to EUR 0.5 million are expected. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts considered by the proposers appropriate to the geographic and domain coverage of their proposal.

Title:	Public Open Data - Enhancement and aggregation of datasets and their harmonisation
Indicative total budget for 2016:	EUR 3.5 million for Generic Services
Type of financial support:	Grants – Call for proposals
Funding rate:	50% of the total eligible cost
Indicative duration of the action:	24 months
Indicative publication date:	Q2 2016

3.7 Automated Translation - eTranslation

3.7.1 Background and rationale

The purpose of the Automated Translation Building Block is, on one hand, to provide multilingual support to other pan-European DSIs so that citizens, administrations and companies in all EU Member States and EEA countries participating in the CEF Telecom Programme can use them in their own language, and, on the other, to offer automated translation services to public administrations to facilitate cross-border information exchange.

The main objective of the actions programmed in 2016 is to operate the Core Service Platform, to implement the automated adaptation facility based on the results of the previous work programmes, and to further extend language resource collection for specific domains, put in place a language resources repository and to introduce processing tools to the core platform and repository. Generic Services will integrate Automated Translation Building Block with instances of most mature instances of CEF DSIs in the member states that are forerunners in adopting and rolling them out.

3.7.2 Implementation 2016

3.7.2.1 On-going actions

The European language resource coordination mechanism (ELRC) has started in April 2015 and it will liaise with all CEF member states in view of awareness-raising and collection of language resources. A study has been launched to analyse the requirements of the different DSIs that are the most likely to use Automated Translation Building

Block. Work on domain adaptation of the MT@EC machine translation system for three CEF DSIs has started.

3.7.2.2 Actions to be started in 2016

Core platform:

- The full-scale core platform, set up in WP2015 actions, will be operated and maintained. Building on the preparatory work undertaken in WP2015 actions, the *automated adaptation facility* will be made operational, and will serve all CEF DSIs that need Automated Translation. The automated adaptation facility will gradually reduce the human effort needed for adaptation of the system to new domains and text types.

- The language resources repository will be extended to cater for a larger set of language resources and processing tools which will enable all multilingual functionalities and content value chains in pan-European public services. The language resources will support translation, semantic interoperability and cross-lingual search. For languages with few resources available, special measures will be applied.

- A Programme Support action will be set up, including relevant studies, e.g. on full multilingual enablement (beyond simple translation) of online services linked to CEF DSIs.

Generic Services:

- Building on the awareness raised through the Language Resources Coordination mechanism (CEF WP2014), collaborative projects will be funded with Member States and other stakeholders to stimulate language resources collection for specific domains of interest to specific pan-European public services. This will be based on earlier studies (e.g. on the established needs of DSIs using Automated Translation or on the gaps in language coverage).

- Based on the results of previous work (in particular on the adaptation activities) the CEF Automated Translation platform is integrated to digital services of European relevance in collaborative projects. These can be: CEF DSIs or other public services of direct importance to and/or connecting to the CEF DSIs; projects aimed to foster the adoption of the multilingual best practice and architectures in public services, for example, by adapting the architecture of such services so that they can benefit from the CEF Automated Translation Building Block; or projects benefitting from CEF Automated Translation and promoting the emergence of the Digital Single Market (e.g. cross-border eCommerce). The consortia will include the early adopters and operators of CEF DSIs and relevant solution/service providers.

All the Generic Services projects under this section are expected, for the purpose of document delivery, to either directly deploy the eDelivery Building Block (See section 3.4), or use eDelivery through a service provider. The specific objectives for document delivery are:

a. to deploy access points and/or to operate access points for one year;

b. to deploy Service Metadata Publishers and/or to operate Service Metadata Publishers for one year;

c. to upgrade data exchange solutions (Commercial Off-the-Shelf (COTS), Open-Source Software (OSS) and other) to support, and therefore fully comply with, the CEF eDelivery standards.

The Core Service Platform of the eDelivery DSI, set up under WP2014, will make available a testing platform to ensure that the deployment of eDelivery in this sector complies with the technical specifications defined by the eDelivery DSI.

3.7.2.3 Use of Building Blocks

Use of eDelivery is envisaged for the purpose of secure handling and transmission of confidential content to and from Automated Translation, and, if necessary, for secure transmission of language resources for Automated Translation. This can be implemented by including eDelivery into the generic service action proposed.

3.7.2.4 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 higher level of security.

3.7.2.5 Operation and stakeholder involvement

Member States will be actively involved in the implementation and deployment process. They are also invited to contribute to the collection of language resources in order to improve the quality of automated translation services for their respective languages. The Commission services will be in charge of the operational management.

The language resources network, set up under the WP2014, constitutes the DSI expert group. It will 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 informal governance body will gradually be extended to encompass appropriate representation of the language industry and language technology experts.

The network of stakeholders and contributors of language resources in all EU Member States and in the countries associated to the CEF programme will be broadened to effectively engage important actors beyond the public sector, for example commercial providers, non-profit organisations, professional organisations in the areas relevant to the DSIs.

3.7.2.6 Financial sustainability

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

1. The Member States have a direct interest and 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.

2. The Automated Translation service can charge the users 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 operation or improvement of the Automated Translation platform.

3. The automated translation facility will bring significant cost savings and/or increased capacity to the EU institutions' translation services. 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. The charging against translations can be extended to third parties (non-CEF) interested in making their online services multilingual.

The "programme support" action will develop a robust and realistic business model, with the aim to phase out reliance on CEF funding by 2020.

3.7.2.7 *Type of financial support*

The Core Service Platform will be implemented via a procurement contract.

Title:	Automated Translation
Indicative total budget for 2016:	EUR 3 million for the Core Service Platform
Type of financial support:	Procurement (one new direct contract and existing framework contracts)
Funding rate:	100% for procurement concerning the core platform
Indicative duration of the action:	Up to 3 years
Indicative publication date	Q3 2016

Generic Services will be financed through grants. Proposals may be submitted by consortia composed by a minimum of three organisations based in three different Member States and/or EEA countries participating in the CEF Telecom programme. The eDelivery deployment can be part of the proposal.

Title:	Automated Translation
Indicative total budget for 2016:	EUR 6.5 million for Generic Services
Type of financial support:	Grants – Call for proposals
Funding rate:	75% of the total eligible costs
Indicative duration of the action:	1-2 years
Indicative publication date	Q3 2016

3.8 Cyber Security

3.8.1 Background and rationale

Cybersecurity is a challenge shared by all Member States. An efficient and timely cooperation between public and private stakeholders about risks, vulnerabilities and threats – especially for critical infrastructures – is crucial for 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 attacks on their networks and information systems, as well as for proper recovery and comprehensive follow up.

Currently, some public and private Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs), known as well as Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) in some Member States have a purely national reach and are limited in their European connectivity due – among others – to a lack of maturity in some CERTs/CSIRTs and lack of trusted cooperation between them. As a consequence, Europe does not make full use of its collective capabilities to improve cyber security.

Therefore, the overall objective of this DSI is the establishment and deployment of a core cooperation platform of cooperation mechanisms, along with the increase of the capabilities of national and/or governmental (n/g) CERTs/CSIRTs, including CERT-EU[21]. This will enhance the EU-wide capability for preparedness, cooperation and information exchange, coordination and response to cyber threats, as defined in the CEF WP2014 preparatory activities. Such mechanisms will be used by Member States on a voluntary basis, in order to strengthen their own capacity building and EU cooperation, involving only those Member States willing to participate. The cooperation mechanisms and the Generic Services will allow for more timely and effective collaboration at a European level. In this way, the Member States will gain a deeper and quicker awareness of ongoing cyber-attacks with an efficient use of available resources, aiming at reducing the potential economic and political damage caused by cyber-attacks.

Many technical and organisational aspects of the DSI were already extensively addressed in prior activities at national and European level and provide for tested and mature technological solutions, as well as experience with regard to the organisational aspects. Examples of relevant cooperation projects include the Framework for Information Sharing and Alerting (FISHA) project, the work of ENISA (e.g. EISAS), the Malware Information Sharing Platform (MISP) or on-going sector-specific initiatives such as the DENSEK project in the electricity sector, but are not limited to these. In addition, these activities are underpinned by the European Strategy for Cyber Security, including the provisions contained in the Directive[22] on a common high level of Network and Information Security (NIS) across the Union, addressing national capabilities and preparedness, EU-level cooperation, take up of risk management practices and an information sharing culture in NIS and notification of IT-incidents. The cooperation developed under this DSI will also contribute to the general cooperation between CERTs/ CSIRTs in the Member States.

3.8.2   **Implementation 2016**

3.8.2.1   *On-going actions*

The actions of WP2015 had as objectives to set up, launch, maintain and operate a core cooperation platform of cooperation mechanisms between a group of national and/or governmental CERTs/ CSIRTs as nominated by the Member States, participating on a voluntary basis, in line with the governance structure and requirements established under WP2014, in order to collect, analyse and share knowledge about vulnerabilities and threats and the use of common procedures and standards to mitigate them.

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[21] https://cert.europa.eu/cert/plainedition/en/cert_about.html

[22]   Adoption expected in spring 2016.

3.8.2.2 Actions to be started in 2016

The actions under WP2016 are of the type "Generic Services", as defined in the CEF Regulation. They aim at allowing willing Member States to develop their national and/or governmental CERTs/CSIRTs local capacities that are necessary for the interoperability of their own capabilities with the cooperation mechanisms (named "Core Service Platform" in the CEF Regulation) established within WP2015.

The specific objective in 2016 is to support Generic Services provided by national and/or governmental CERTs/CSIRTs in all the Member States, building on their interoperability with the EU cooperation mechanisms and their services. The CERTs/CSIRTs will create, maintain or expand national capacities to run a range of cybersecurity services. This includes both activities for increasing preparedness of the CERTs/CSIRTs (e.g. development or acquisition of better tools for analysis, identification, and detection of threats, training, awareness campaigns, services to local agents, among others) and the establishment of access points from the CERTs/CSIRTs to the cooperation mechanisms (e.g. secure devices and software, interfaces, gateways, translation of local tools into common formats, and others).

These Generic Services may include the acquisition and operation of national level cybersecurity IT systems, experimental test-beds, training facilities, joint training courses, cooperation meetings and Europe-wide cybersecurity exercises that will facilitate the cross-border cooperation of CERTs/CSIRTs, as indicated in WP2015. These may be complemented with very sophisticated toolsets that are specific to the cybersecurity area, like sandboxes, simulation environments, advanced research infrastructures, and secure control rooms. The actions in WP2016 are designed to help participant Member States to build capacity and reach a state of preparedness that will allow them to participate on an equal footing in the cooperation mechanisms established through the actions in WP2015. These actions do not intend to provide the totality of the funds needed but rather act as an incentive for Member States to develop their cybersecurity capacity.

3.8.2.3 Use of Building Blocks

The eDelivery Building Block will be proposed as an existing solution for the secure exchange of messages concerning the cooperation mechanisms. Automated Translation and eID are also considered as useful. However, given the specificity and the particular requirements posed by the cybersecurity context, a careful evaluation of Building Blocks must take place, which may be carried by the governance body established in the Preparatory Actions. In case it is decided that the use of Building Blocks is feasible in such a specific cybersecurity environment, these actions may also provide for their implementation by participant countries.

3.8.2.4 Benefits and expected outcomes

The Generic Services will allow the Member States to limit the economic and political damage of cyber-attacks, while reducing the overall costs of cyber security for individual Member States and for the Union. This will be achieved by the connection of national and/or governmental CERTs/CSIRTs capabilities to the cooperation mechanisms that will allow Member States to be prepared to respond early enough to prevent or at least to mitigate cyber security incidents that may affect their networks and information systems, making European digital networks more secure for their citizens. This may open new avenues for cross European and multidisciplinary methodological and experimental

cooperation that include Europe-wide views, perceptions and behaviours leading to higher preparedness and better cybersecurity resilience.

It must be also be underlined how cybersecurity is considered as underpinning the creation and sustainability of the Digital Single Market. The DSM Communication states that "The Digital Single Market must be built on reliable, trustworthy, high-speed, affordable networks and services that safeguard consumers' fundamental rights to privacy and personal data protection while also encouraging innovation". This DSI will contribute to achieve the necessary reliability and trustworthiness.

Also, this activity will foster the participant countries to build their own capabilities in cybersecurity and to increase their awareness about their own needs and requirements on a technical and organisational level.

The success of the actions undertaken may be measured in several ways, including the level of services enabling new usages and capabilities; the usefulness and usability of the tools/processes/services deployed; the number of new cyber-threats detected; and others.

3.8.2.5 *Operation and stakeholder involvement*

The participating Member States will be the owners of the implementation and deployment of the Generic Services funded under this action. The EC and ENISA will be also involved in this process, according to their defined roles under EU law, for instance by providing guidance where needed or channelling and structuring the outreach to the CERT/CSIRT community and other stakeholders.

3.8.2.6 *Financial sustainability*

The Generic Services funded under this action will be fully operated by participant countries, because of the specific characteristics of the cybersecurity context. Therefore, the CEF funding will only be used to build capacity into connecting to the cooperation mechanisms resulting from WP2015. This includes the hiring of trained staff, training of current staff, and acquisition of consumables, among others, for the duration of the action. The participant countries will remain in charge of the operation and maintenance of the Generic Services afterwards.

3.8.2.7 *Type of financial support*

Generic Services will be financed through grants. Proposals may be submitted by a single or a consortium of national and/or governmental CERTs/CSIRTs based in different Member States or EEA countries participating in the CEF Telecom programme. There will be at most one such grant per country, unless there are still funds left once all proposals from different participating countries that are above threshold have been served.

Title:	Cyber Security
Indicative total budget for 2016:	EUR 12 million for Generic Services
Type of financial support:	Grants – Call for proposals
Funding rate:	75% of the total eligible cost, for a maximum funding of EUR 1 million per action
Indicative duration of the action:	24 months
Indicative publication:	Q3 2016

3.9 Digital Public Procurement – eProcurement

3.9.1 Background and rationale

The new Public Procurement Directives[23] 2014/25/EU, 2014/24/EU and 2014/23/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 March 2014 require Member States to implement electronic procurement.

In order to have a system working at European level and fully cross-border, the successful implementation of the eProcurement DSI becomes essential. In fact, all Member States will have to fulfil eNotification and eAccess by 2016 and eSubmission by 2018: that is, all tender submissions will have to be done electronically from that year onwards. At the same time, contracting authorities will have to turn primarily to e-Certis to ask for certificates and other documents: e-Certis will become a sort of clearing house for these documents. Member States will have to keep e-Certis up-to-date from 2016.

In the future, as soon as Member States have implemented the new Public Procurement Directives, the European Single Procurement Document (ESPD) will be the standard document to ask economic operators information for the exclusion and selection criteria.

To complete the picture, electronic invoices will have to be accepted by 2020.

Transition towards full eProcurement is highlighted as an important step towards eGovernment in the 2015 Communication for a Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe[24]. Therefore, in the coming years the CEF eProcurement DSI will be used to gradually achieve interoperability of solutions that are relevant for the eProcurement domain. Depending on their maturity, more actions will be added in this DSI in the future to further support fulfilment of the requirements stated in the Public Procurement Directives and the e-Invoicing Directive.

3.9.2 Implementation 2016

There are two different actions for 2016: the ongoing action on e-Certis and the new action on the European Single Procurement Document (ESPD). Focus will be put for this year on the new action ESPD.

3.9.2.1 On-going actions

e-Certis: the e-Certis service (http://ec.europa.eu/markt/ecertis/) provides a web service which allows third parties to retrieve the information in e-Certis electronically. The aim is that eTendering solutions and aggregators of certificates throughout Europe integrate their solutions with e-Certis to provide added value to economic operators and contracting authorities.

3.9.2.2 Actions to be started in 2016

Core Service Platform

Core Services will be provided for the generic services starting 2016 for the European Single Procurement Document. This includes a testing environment to test ESPD files. Another action that will start this year for the eProcurement DSI is to provide a testing environment for the eTendering action. The eTendering action includes all necessary

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[23] http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2014:094:TOC

[24] http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/digital-single-market/docs/dsm-communication_en.pdf

phases of a public procurement procedure like eAccess and eSubmission. This action is based on the eSENS pilot to make eTendering solutions interoperable. In order to exchange messages for the eTendering action eDelivery is necessary.

<u>Generic Services</u>

e-Certis is an important cornerstone together with the European Single Procurement Document (ESPD) and national registers/aggregators towards the support of the Once-Only principle. Thus alongside to continue to support the action on e-Certis focus will be put on the implementation of the ESPD. The ESPD is a self-declaration, which is to be used as preliminary evidence in replacing certificates issued by public authorities or third parties confirming that the relevant economic operator fulfils certain conditions. The ESPD service is currently being developed by the Commission. It allows economic operators and contracting authorities to create, edit and export the electronic ESPD. While the ESPD service of the Commission will provide basic features, Member States should integrate a "customised" ESPD service in their solutions in order to provide added value to economic operators and contracting authorities. The ESPD file must conform to the ESPD data exchange model which was developed together with the standardization initiatives CEN BII (workshop on business interoperability interfaces for public procurement), eSENS (EU funded large scale project which includes the eProcurement domain) and ISA semic action (Improving semantic interoperability in European eGovernment systems). There are several options to implement an ESPD compatible service. Entities can reuse the open source solution provided by the Commission, the VCD (Virtual Company Dossier) open source solution provided by stakeholders from the eSENS project or adapt their solution based on the ESPD data exchange model. All three options will be provided through Joinup.

3.9.2.3 *Use of Building Blocks*

e-Certis will use eID from first quarter 2016. Other Building Blocks like eDelivery and eSignature are not mandatory to allow participation in these actions. Nevertheless public and private service providers are encouraged to make use of them in order to make their solutions even more interoperable. It is already foreseen that for 2017 the use of eDelivery will be necessary to exchange messages between eTendering platforms.

3.9.2.4 *Benefits and expected outcomes*

The use of e-Certis in combination with national registers, prequalification services for certificates and eTendering solutions will help economic operators in cross-border procurement to identify evidences required for participation in the call.

The European Single Procurement Document (ESPD) service will significantly reduce bureaucracy in public procurement both for contracting authorities and bidders. In combination with e-Certis and national registers, prequalification services for certificates and eTendering solutions will support the "once only" principle (reusability of harmonized information).

3.9.2.5 Operation and stakeholder involvement

The European Commission is in charge of the operational management of the services, while the multi-stakeholder Expert Group on eProcurement (EXEP)[25] is the advisory body to the Commission for this CEF DSI.

3.9.2.6 Financial sustainability

Both e-Certis and ESPD related services are part of DG GROWTH's key cross-border eProcurement tools mandated by the Public Procurement Directive, therefore the long term sustainability for their maintenance has to be discussed within that framework.

3.9.2.7 Type of financial support

The Core Service Platform will be implemented via a procurement contract.

Title:	Digital Public Procurement (eProcurement)
Indicative total budget for 2016:	EUR 3 million for Core Service Platform
Type of financial support:	Procurement (existing framework contracts)
Funding rate:	100%
Indicative duration of the action:	4 years
Indicative publication date:	Q1 2016

Generic Services will be financed through grants. Proposals may be submitted by consortia consisting of at least 4 entities from one or several Member State and/or EEA countries participating in the CEF Telecom. For the "e-Certis" and "ESPD" services preference is given to aggregators/pre-qualifications systems for certificates for including these services in their existing solutions.

Title:	Digital Procurement (eProcurement)
Indicative total budget for 2016:	EUR 4.5 million for Generic Services
Type of financial support:	Grants – Call for proposals
Funding rate:	75% of the total eligible cost
Indicative duration of the action:	12 months
Indicative publication date:	Q1 2016

'New' Mature DSI's selected on the basis of the criteria established by the Regulation

3.10 Business Registers Interconnection System – BRIS DSI

3.10.1 Background and rationale

The limited cross-border access to business information results in a risky business environment for consumers and for existing or potential business partners, and reduces legal certainty. Efficient cross-border cooperation between the European business registers is therefore essential for a smooth functioning of the EU Single Market. The stakeholders impacted are both the public who wish to access cross-border information on companies, and the companies of the EU when carrying out cross-border activities

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[25] http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=3142

and when involved in cross-border mergers. Furthermore the business registers themselves are impacted by the problem, as they face challenges in communicating with each other for example in respect to cross-border mergers or foreign branches.

Directive 2012/17/EU of the Parliament and the Council of 13 June 2012 requires the establishment of an information system that interconnects the central, commercial and companies registers (also referred to as business registers) of all Member States. The system - named Business Registers Interconnection System (BRIS) will consist of: a core services platform named European Central Platform (ECP); the Member States business registers; and will use the e-Justice portal as European electronic access point to information on companies.

The work on the project started in 2013 with an extensive exercise of gathering relevant business requirements. Throughout 2013-2014 Member States have been consulted in the context of the Company Law Expert Group on the proposed high-level architecture for BRIS and other major elements of the system. In parallel, the Commission conducted a reusability study which looked into a number of existing initiatives that could provide reusable Building Blocks for BRIS. This study concluded with a recommendation for using the e-Delivery solution for the transport infrastructure in BRIS.

3.10.2 <u>Implementation 2016</u>

3.10.2.1 On-going actions

2015 has been be dedicated to (1) establishing the interfaces between the BRIS DSI and the Member States systems as well as the e-Justice portal; (2) piloting the e-Delivery solution for BRIS and (3) setting up the central platform. This work has prepared the ground for the integration and deployment activities that will start in 2016.

3.10.2.2 Actions to be started in 2016

For the interconnection of business registers, the central platform will orchestrate all traffic among the domestic business registers and between the e-Justice Portal and the business registers in the 28 Member States, plus the EEA countries participating in the CEF Telecom Programme[26]. As the system needs to go live by Q2 2017, the main integration and deployment work will take place in 2016-2017.

Core Service Platform

The main actions in 2016 will focus on technical tasks such as the integration of CEF e-Delivery Building Block. The main activities to be carried out by BRIS in 2016 will be the implementation, integration and testing of software based on common specifications that promote EU-wide interoperability across borders. In addition, a technical helpdesk will be established for providing support to the platform users and ensuring effective use of the platform. The Commission will also have to provide hosting for the necessary environments.

In conjunction with the technical tasks, the Commission will also perform stakeholder engagement, communication and change management activities, playing both a steering and facilitator role. As every Member State will have to integrate their business registers with the BRIS central platform by the same date, the Commission will organise

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[26] Although BRIS covers all Member States and 3 EEA countries (Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway), at the time of writing legal provisions foresee that only Iceland and Norway are eligible for CEF funding

workshops, bilateral meetings and other pan-European events to ensure that everyone is informed of what needs to be done, by when and how. These activities will ensure that all Member States actively participate in the implementation work and that no one falls behind or drops out because of lack of information or support.

After 2016, the Commission will launch a number of support and training activities, involving both local dissemination and training actions and remote support to the business registers of the Member State. In addition, the Commission will start service administration activities such as the day-to-day administration and operation of the BRIS central services and provision of statistics on the use of the several services.

In the future, the use of BRIS could be expanded to other policies areas by supporting further communication between the registers or through expansion of the current scope for the search. Another possible area for use could be in the field of anti-money laundering.

Generic Services

The grants for Generic Services will support the Member States to meet the following main objectives:

- Enabling business registers to support the data model and the standard messages coming from BRIS, which may involve the upgrade of the existing business registers. This is particularly important for Member States that have less sophisticated or technologically outdated business registers;
- Testing activities to ensure that the transition to a fully operational mode is successful.

Moreover, all the Generic Services projects under this section are expected, for the purpose of document delivery, to either directly deploy the eDelivery Building Block (See section 3.4), or use eDelivery through a service provider. If the deployment of the eDelivery is included in the proposal the specific objective of this activity is:

a. to deploy access points and/or to operate access points for one year;

b. to deploy Service Metadata Publishers and/or to operate Service Metadata Publishers for one year;

c. to upgrade data exchange solutions (Commercial Off-the-Shelf (COTS), Open-Source Software (OSS) and other) to support, and therefore fully comply with, the CEF eDelivery standards.

The Core Service Platform of the eDelivery DSI, set up under WP2014, will make available a testing platform to ensure that the deployment of eDelivery in this sector complies with the technical specifications defined by the eDelivery DSI. The deployment of eDelivery will also contribute to the compliance with the requirements set out in the eIDAS Regulation (Regulation (EU) 910/2014)."

3.10.2.3 Use of Building Blocks

BRIS will use the eDelivery Building Block for the information transport infrastructure. This can be implemented by including eDelivery into the generic service action proposed.

The e-Justice portal, which is used by BRIS, also relies on ECAS-STORK for user authentication and so it indirectly integrates the e-Identity Building Block.

After 2017, it will also be assessed whether two other CEF Building Blocks will be used, namely the automated translation (MT©EC) and the eSignature Building Block.

3.10.2.4 Benefits and expected outcomes

The main expected results of the business registers interconnection are:
- an increase in confidence in the European Single Market by ensuring a safer business environment for consumers, creditors and other business partners;
- a higher degree of legal certainty as to the information in the European business registers;
- an improvement of the performance of public administration regarding cooperation between business registers in Europe in procedures for cross-border mergers, and exchange of relevant information regarding branches and the company.

Other specific expected benefits are:

- improved quality of data in domestic business registers with cross-border coherency;
- digital implementation of cross-border processes;
- increased transparency and easier cross-border access to information on companies;
- increased possibilities for cross-border activities for companies;
- facilitation of increased cross-border competition;
- facilitation of cooperation and communication between registers.

3.10.2.5 Operation and stakeholder involvement

The BRIS project is a joint effort of the Commission and the Member States. For the Commission, DG JUST is the system owner, with DG DIGIT as solution provider for the central platform. DG JUST will also provide the user interface on the e-Justice portal, which will serve as European access point to company data via the central platform. The Member States will have to connect to the central platform to ensure interoperability and communication with the other registers and the portal. A governance structure has already been put in place, whereby the Commission works with the Member States both at policy level (through the Company Law Expert Group) and at technical level (through a Technical User Group, involving IT experts from the business registers).

3.10.2.6 Financial sustainability

Until BRIS is fully rolled out, CEF is expected to fund the central platform and Generic Services in order to ensure full take-up as required by the legislation. After 2018, the funding from CEF is expected to decrease, as the main costs would be related to evolutive maintenance and support services.

3.10.2.7 Type of financial support

The Core Service Platform will be implemented via a procurement contract.

Title:	BRIS (Business registers Interconnection System)
Indicative total budget for 2016:	EUR 5 million for the core platform
Type of financial support:	Procurement (existing framework contracts)
Funding rate:	100%
Indicative duration of the action:	3 years
Indicative publication date :	Q1 2016

Generic Services will be financed through grants. Proposals may be submitted by a single entity or a consortium of entities based in one or several Member States and/or EEA countries participating in the CEF Telecom programme. Eligible entities are business registers as referred to in Directive 2009/101/EC. The eDelivery deployment can be part of the proposal.

Title:	BRIS (Business registers Interconnection System)
Indicative total budget for 2016:	EUR 3 million for Generic Services
Type of financial support:	Grants – Call for proposals
Funding rate:	75% of the total eligible cost
Indicative duration of the action:	18 months
Indicative publication date :	Q1 2016

3.11 Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information (EESSI) - Integration, qualification and production rollout of national social security systems with EESSI.

3.11.1 Background and rationale

The Regulations (EC) Nos. 883/2004[27] and 987/2009[28] for the coordination of social security systems became applicable on 1 May 2010 and have repealed Regulations (EEC) Nos. 1408/71 and 574/72. Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 (the implementing regulation) states clearly that the electronic exchange of social security information is a key element in establishing a closer and more effective cooperation between social security institutions.

The main objective of this DSI is to improve the cross border communication between the national social security institutions of Member States and EEA countries participating to the CEF programme by introducing an electronic communication platform for efficient exchange of information in order to:

- Strengthen the protection of the social security rights of mobile citizens by automating the application of EC regulations on social security at an optimal level;

- Enable efficiency in the decision-making process for the actual calculation and payment of social security benefits to citizens who exercise mobility across Europe;

- Allow secure, efficient and verifiable data transfers for the citizens concerned;

- Collect accurate statistical data on social security coordination data exchanges.

The EESSI platform covers the cross-border business processes of the all branches of social security such as: Accidents at Work and Occupational Disease Benefits, Family Benefits, Pension Benefits, Recovery of Benefits and Contributions, Sickness and Healthcare Benefits, Unemployment Benefits, etc.

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[27] http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:166:0001:0123:en:PDF

[28] http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:284:0001:0042:en:PDF

3.11.2 <u>Implementation 2016</u>

3.11.2.1 On-going actions

The core IT platform is being currently developed and tested in an iterative fashion with the aim to finalise it by end of 2016, in order to allow the Member States to start integrating their national systems to this platform. A first iteration of the central EESSI platform has already been delivered and tested.

The Business Use Cases to be used by EESSI are currently verified from a business perspective by allowing clerks to run in a specially designed IT platform, cases inspired from real life and using anonymised data.

3.11.2.2 Actions to be started in 2016

In 2016, actions will be carried out according to two main lines: the final development and the deployment of the Core Service Platform providing for the central electronic communication platform, which is carried out by the Commission services, and the connection of national systems to this platform for which Member States are responsible (Generic Services).

<u>Core Service Platform</u>

The following activities will be executed for its deployment:

- Implementation, integration and testing of new development iterations of the main EESSI messaging and transport platform composed of a Central Service Node and Access Points. This is complemented by the Reference Implementation of a National Application (RINA) supporting the exchange of the relevant social security coordination information;

- Second level IT support activities for the national users;

- Direct technical support for eligible countries technical teams installing and integrating the Access Points and RINA;

- Supporting the EESSI implementation in the Member States (i.e. providing the expertise required for training and other dissemination activities, support for development of institutional capacity, monitoring implementation etc.).

<u>Generic Services</u>

The following activities will be performed by eligible countries for the connection to the Core platform:

- Acquisition of hardware (example: server, networking devices, cabling) required by EESSI (for example for the installation and connection of the Access Points or RINA);

- Acquisition of infrastructure software licenses necessary for installation, operation and for connecting to the EESSI Core Service Platform of Access Points participating in the EESSI business;

- Installation and configuration of the EESSI Access Pointsto be used for EESSI business, including non-production environments;

- Setup and training of the first and second level IT support teams in the EESSI Access Points participating in the EESSI business;

- Training of users involved in the EESSI cross-border business processes;

- Distribution, installation and configuration of RINA in the national domain for EESSI-related uses;

- Development and deployment of National Applications to allow connection to the EESSI core platform and compliance with the cross-border business processes without reusing RINA components;

- Development and deployment of National Applications to allow connection to the core platform by reusing RINA components;

- Further development and configuration of the software situated in the national domain that will assist with connecting the Access Points with the national IT systems at the level of the relevant Institutions for EESSI-related uses;

- Activities performed at the Member State level contributing to the acceptance of the components contributing to the EESSI business.

Thanks to the interoperability between the technical specifications of eDelivery and the ones of EESSI, eligible countries will be able to deploy any eDelivery compliant Access Point as their Technical Gateway, AP or interfacing part of their National Application, as long as it contributes to the connection to the EESSI ecosystem and operation within the EESSI business processes. Furthermore, the Core Service Platform of the eDelivery DSI, set up under WP2014, will make available a testing platform to ensure that these deployments comply with the technical specifications defined by the eDelivery DSI. The deployment of eDelivery will also contribute to the compliance with the requirements set out in the eIDAS Regulation (Regulation (EU) 910/2014) ".

3.11.2.3 Use of Building Blocks

The EESSI project developed the Access Point and the RINA under the ebMS 3.0 protocol[29] complementing the Building Blocks eDelivery. During 2016, the EESSI development will be unified with eDelivery Building Block enriching the cross-domain offer proposed to Member States administrations. This can be implemented by including eDelivery into the generic service action proposed.

The EESSI deployment will use Automated Translation and will also explore the use of the eID Building Block.

3.11.2.4 Benefits and expected outcomes

The objective is to allow a quick transition from the current paper exchanges to the EESSI IT systems and increase efficiency in social security coordination activity by implementing the necessary agreed of business processes.

The CEF funding will support a fast transition of all eligible countries to the electronic exchange of data in order to diminish the duration of coexistence of old paper procedures and helping eligible countries complying to the deadlines specified by the Regulation 987/2009.

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[29] http://docs.oasis-open.org/ebxml-msg/ebms/v3.0/profiles/AS4-profile/v1.0/os/AS4-profile-v1.0-os.html

3.11.2.5 Operation and stakeholder involvement

The EESSI project is a joint effort of the Commission and the Member States. For the Commission, DG EMPL is the system owner and solution provider for the central platform and the Reference Implementation of a National Application (RINA), while the Administrative Commission for Social Security Coordination (and the Technical Commission) play the steering role as well as the forums deciding on whether the "system is fit for purpose".

The eligible countries will have to connect to the Access Points to ensure interoperability and communication with each other and with the Central Service Node. The existing EESSI governance bodies will be reused in the CEF project, whereby the Commission works with the eligible countries both at policy level (the Administrative Commission) and at technical level (the Technical Commission).

3.11.2.6 Financial sustainability

EESSI core platform is partially funded under DG EMPL operational budget which is rather limited for the development and deployment phase but can cover the EESSI maintenance and support services. Until EESSI is fully rolled out, CEF is expected to fund a part of the Core Service Platform and the Generic Services in order to ensure the full and rapid take-up of social security coordination electronic exchanges. After 2018, the funding from CEF is expected to decrease, as the main costs would be limited to evolutive maintenance and support services.

3.11.2.7 Type of financial support

CEF financial support is given for core platform in the form of procurement while there is a call for proposals for the Generic Services, for any of the activities specified above as activities to be started in 2016.

Title:	Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information (EESSI) - Integration, Qualification and Rollout of national social security systems with EESSI
Indicative total budget for 2016:	EUR 5.5 million for the Core Service Platform
Type of financial support:	Procurement
Funding rate:	100%
Indicative duration of the action:	2 years
Indicative publication date:	Q1 2016

Generic Services will be financed through grants. Proposals may be submitted by one single entity based in a Member State or EEA country participating in the CEF Telecom programme. CEF financing for the call for proposals for the Generic Services will provide a maximum of co-financing of EUR 1.000.000 per entity. The solution using eDelivery components/standards can be part of the proposal. There will be a maximum of one proposal selected among those of entities based in a same Member State or EEA country.

Title:	Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information (EESSI) - Integration, Qualification and Rollout of national social security systems with EESSI
Indicative total budget for 2016:	EUR 24.5 million for Generic Services

Type of financial support:	Grants – Call for proposals
Funding rate:	75% for grants concerning Generic Services
Indicative duration of the action:	2 years
Indicative publication date:	Q1 2016

3.12 European e-Justice Portal

3.12.1 <u>Background and rationale</u>

In its Communication of May 2008, the European Commission proposed to establish the European e-Justice Portal, to be managed in close cooperation with the Member States. The Portal was launched on 16 July 2010 and has been expanded ever since – today it has approximately 250.000 visitors each month.

The Portal's objective is to contribute to the creation of a European judicial area by leveraging ICT to facilitate access to justice and enable electronic cross-border judicial proceedings and judicial cooperation.

The European e-Justice Portal, at its second stage of development, is expanding from being a provider of information to being a provider of services in the judicial area, in accordance with the Draft Strategy on European e-Justice 2014-2018[30] and the Multiannual European e-Justice Action Plan 2014-2018[31].

The expansion into the services area began in 2014 with the launch of three modules, the Interconnection of Insolvency Registers, Find a Lawyer and Find a Notary, and will continue in 2015 with opening up access to e-CODEX, launching the European Court Database and the search of national and European case law based on the European Case Law Identifier (ECLI). Most of these modules comprise a European Commission Core Service Platform and Member State (or organisations therein) Generic Services. The number of operational Generic Services, however, varies considerably depending on the module. The deployment of additional Generic Services to cover more countries or organisations is essential to the usefulness of each service.

In the particular case of access to e-CODEX no Core Service Platform is in place as the infrastructure operates in peer-to-peer mode. Nevertheless, the European e-Justice Portal acts as a gateway for users so that they can access the connected Generic Services.

The purpose of creating this DSI is to increase the number of Generic Services connected to the modules of the European e-Justice Portal and therefore its scope is <u>strictly limited</u> to actions that pursue this goal. Among others, the following categories of applications are thus explicitly excluded from the scope of the call: actions in the area of e-Justice that do not have a clear and direct link to the aforementioned e-Justice Portal modules and financing of Generic Services that are already operational before the call for applications is opened. Where parts of a generic service are not yet implemented, a provision for their implementation can be included in the application as long as a clear distinction between the existing and still to be implemented parts can be and is drawn.

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[30] http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1427368506207&uri=CELEX:52013XG1221(02)

[31] http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1427368544336&uri=CELEX:52014XG0614(01)

3.12.2 <u>Implementation 2016</u>

3.12.2.1 On-going actions

The European e-Justice Portal is being actively developed, with a focus on bringing online the ECLI search engine and e-CODEX modules. The European Court Database was launched in July 2015 and a number of the Portal's modules are being modified in order to take advantage of it. At the same time, a usability study is underway, aimed at changing the face of the Portal and at reorganising the information and services it provides in order to make them easier to find and more friendly to use.

3.12.2.2 Actions to be started in 2016

DG Justice and Consumers will continue to develop, maintain and operate the Core Service Platforms of all modules of the European e-Justice Portal using non-CEF funding. The main goal in 2016 and beyond via this DSI is to encourage the development, deployment, testing and operation of Generic Services in the Member States and the EEA countries participating in the CEF Telecom programme that would allow the modules to serve a greater audience and thus better fulfil their public function.

The details of the generic service depend on the nature of the Core Service Platform of the module to which the generic service has to be connected:

- *Interconnection of Insolvency Registers*: the national insolvency registers have to implement the agreed web service specification necessary for communication with the Core Service Platform.

  Eligible organisations: national public administrations competent for or operating insolvency or commercial registers.

- *Find a lawyer / Find a notary*: the national lawyer bar associations and law societies, as well as the national notary associations, have to implement the web service specification mandated by the Core Service Platform.

  Due to national specificities in some Member States databases on these legal professions are not centralised and are instead distributed at regional level. In such cases, in order to minimise the number of technical interconnections and offer a consistent and uniform user experience, applicants would be expected to carry out the technical and organisational work required towards defining a common set of supported search criteria, data sets and establish a single interconnection access point for the purposes of interconnection via the European e-Justice Portal. In this respect applications aimed at full national coverage will receive higher priority during the evaluation process followed by applications offering partial coverage as long as there is a clear commitment that the system would be open to non-participating national bodies which would join at a later stage.

  Eligible organisations: national bar associations and law societies (for Find a Lawyer), national notary associations (for Find a Notary).

- *European Case Law Identifier (ECLI)*: adoption and implementation of the ECLI standard on national level, and the provision of national case law to the Core Service Platform which would allow users to search for and find case law decisions featuring an ECLI identifier and metadata.

Applications aiming at full national adoption of the ECLI standard and establishing an interconnection to the ECLI search engine of the European e-Justice Portal will receive higher priority in comparison to applications offering partial adoption (for example limited to the judicial decisions of a Supreme Court, or to prospective adoption of the ECLI standard).

Eligible organisations: national, European and international case law publishers or providers.

- *Access to e-CODEX*: the European e-Justice Portal participates in two of the e-CODEX judicial workflows: the European Order for Payment (EOP) and the European Small Claims (ESC) procedure. The "Access to e-CODEX" package is therefore established to support Member States[32] <u>exclusively</u> for joining these two pilots as parties able to receive claims from users of the European e-Justice Portal. Priority will be given to the applications that also propose to support sending back replies from the national court(s) via e-CODEX to the users of the European e-Justice Portal. Funding for e-CODEX judicial workflows other than EOP and ESC or other uses of e-CODEX technology is explicitly excluded from the CEF programme.

  To achieve implementation for "Access to e-CODEX", Member States are invited to submit, insofar as they have not already implemented the relevant components, a proposal that covers:

  o activities related to deployment, configuration, testing and operation of an eDelivery platform. The deployment of eDelivery is a complementary activity that should be requested as part of the proposal. If eDelivery is not deployed, the beneficiaries must prove the use of eDelivery services through a service provider. The specific objective of this activity is:

    ▪ to deploy access points and/or

    ▪ to operate access points for one year;

    ▪ to deploy Service Metadata Publishers and/or

    ▪ to operate Service Metadata Publishers for one year;

    ▪ to upgrade data exchange solutions (Commercial Off-the-Shelf (COTS), Open-Source Software (OSS) and other) to support, and therefore fully comply with, the CEF eDelivery standards.

  The Core Service Platform of the eDelivery DSI, set up under the WP2014, will make available a testing platform to ensure that the deployment of eDelivery in this sector complies with the technical specifications defined by the eDelivery DSI. The deployment of eDelivery will also contribute to the compliance with the requirements set out in the eIDAS Regulation (Regulation (EU) 910/2014);

  o for activities related to the deployment, adaptation, configuration, testing and operation of the e-CODEX connector (or of other <u>existing</u> third party software that can fulfil the same role with minimal adaptation) required for fulfilling the tasks mandated by the e-CODEX communication

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[32] Non-EU Member States are excluded from "Access to e-CODEX" since the concerned judicial procedures only exist in the EU Member States.

standard as described in the e-CODEX specifications: generation of the necessary evidence of reception, signature validation, message packaging and other relevant tasks;

   o one set of activities <u>per judicial workflow</u> for tasks related to connection of the national case management infrastructure[33] to the eDelivery platform, the generation of XML files for all forms mandated by the judicial procedure, compliant with the e-CODEX XSDs as described in the e-CODEX specifications, the generation of PDF files for all forms mandated by the judicial procedure using the templates of the respective European regulations, end-to-end testing and operation of the system;

Applicants are encouraged to bundle all requests as a single application if possible. The connection will be considered achieved (and reimbursement released) if and only if, for the judicial workflow(s) included in the proposal, the users of the e-Justice Portal can send to one or more courts in the Member State applying for funding any form linked to the judicial workflow that is meant to be sent from the claimant to the court, receiving evidence of reception. If included in its application, the Member State will also have to prove being able to send back all forms meant to be sent from the court to the claimant. The transmission is to be done using the technologies and standards described above or compatible ones. This will be verified using the test plans defined by the e-CODEX project.

Eligible organisations: public administrations.

- *European Court Database*: countries have to adapt and/or extend their national databases to implement a mechanism for the automatic import of relevant data (e.g. court details, competences, etc.) to the European Court Database.

Eligible organisations: public administrations.

Each generic service may comprise up to three types of activities:

- *hook-up*: covers all the activities linked to the development of specific connection software, modifications and adaptations of existing information systems for the purposes of the hook-up. For example: installation and configuration of hardware and software infrastructure, required adaptations in existing software solutions and data sources, deployment of the generic service, local and integration testing, project management, etc.

  In duly justified and substantiated cases applications which aim to <u>substantially</u> increase the scope and/or the added value of an *in situ* generic service may also be considered eligible for evaluation as hook-up activities;

- *operation*: covers operational costs such as hosting, acquisition of certificates or software licenses, technical support, etc.

- *maintenance*: covers any activity required for maintaining the specific connection software and associated configuration in good working order. This includes adaptive maintenance (changing the software to work in a changing infrastructure), corrective maintenance (resolving bugs) and evolutive maintenance (changing the software to adapt to evolving requirements such as changes in the core platform or in the national service).

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[33] Astand-alone connector can equally be used.

3.12.2.3 Use of Building Blocks

As Core Service Platform, the European e-Justice Portal uses the eSignature, eDelivery and Automated Translation Building Block DSIs. Via its reliance on ECAS-STORK for user authentication, the Portal also integrates the eIdentity Building Block DSI. The Building Block DSIs are fundamental to many of the Portal's existing and upcoming services and they will continue to be included to the fullest extent.

The deployment of eDelivery can be included in the proposal for "Access to e-CODEX" Generic Services.

3.12.2.4 Benefits and expected outcomes

Ensuring that the fundamental rights of EU individuals and consumers are upheld in the digital world is at the forefront of the DSM strategy. Consumers are entitled to adequate protection of their rights both online and offline, and building confidence and trust in the online world is crucial to the creation and success of the DSM. The strategy proposes developments in a number of justice areas, including company law, consumer redress and improvement of the European e-Justice Portal.

It is clear that by increasing the number of data or service providers connected to each of the European e-Justice Portal modules, the value of the services offered to citizens, businesses and legal practitioners grows proportionally to the extra coverage. The specific benefits depend on the module in question:

- *Interconnection of Insolvency Registers*: the interconnection of national insolvency registers is key to improving the provision of relevant and timely information to creditors and courts involved and prevent the opening of parallel insolvency proceedings. With this in mind the envisaged actions shall allow certain Member States to expediently comply with the requirements of the Regulation[34] and interconnect their national insolvency registers via the European e-Justice Portal;

- *Find a lawyer / Find a notary*: Find a Lawyer, and its sibling project Find a Notary, allow citizens and legal practitioners to easily locate a lawyer or a notary throughout the EU. These two tools were set up in order to facilitate access to justice in particular in a cross-border context and most of the Member States are already participating. The current main priority is to extend and complete coverage in terms of participation and hence to provide a comprehensive EU-wide search engine for finding members of these two legal professions across Europe;

- *European Case Law Identifier (ECLI)*: ECLI offers a solution to a number of problems legal professionals and practitioners are confronted with daily when trying to locate case law decisions published by other countries – e.g. lack of familiarity with national numbering schemes, different types of metadata, correlation between legislation and case law, etc. The expected outcome is the implementation of technical solutions allowing access to national case law on national and European level;

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[34] Regulation (EU) 2015/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2015 on insolvency proceedings

- *Access to e-CODEX*: connecting more Member States to e-CODEX is meant to enlarge the territorial coverage where electronic use of the European Order for Payment and the European Small Claims cross-border legal instruments is possible. Every country that becomes connected enables its courts to receive electronic submissions of claims from citizens, business and legal practitioners across the European Union;

- *European Court Database*: the key benefit of the envisaged actions is a smoother and enhanced process of provision of the country's data to the European Court Database. This would result in the data about courts being constantly up-to-date, avoiding the presentation or use of outdated information in either the European e-Justice Portal or third party service providers relying on this data.

3.12.2.5 Operation and stakeholder involvement

The e-Justice Portal is co-managed by the European Commission and the Member States. For the European e-Justice Portal as a whole and for all its modules except access to e-CODEX, the European Commission takes decisions in agreement with the Member States. The governance body for the European e-Justice Portal is the Council e-Justice Working Party, while technical decisions are taken in the e-Justice Expert Group both of which meet a few times a year. Specific expert subgroups are established for a limited duration to coordinate the implementation of some of the Portal's modules (such as the Insolvency Register subgroup or the European Case Law Identifier subgroup) when the relevant stakeholders are not part of the e-Justice Experts' Group, or are only a small subset thereof.

In the particular case of the e-CODEX project, the governance is ensured by the project itself until May 2016. Following that, a short-, medium- and long-term governance model will be put in place.

The daily operation and maintenance of the Core Service Platforms is ensured by DG Justice and Consumers with the help of external contractors.

3.12.2.6 Financial sustainability

The European e-Justice Portal and related Core Service Platforms will continue to be funded from the Justice Programme in the years to come.

The financing for the operation of Generic Services in the longer term will be ensured by the beneficiaries (national administrations, court administrations or professional associations, as the case may be depending of the module in question). They should acknowledge and commit to this arrangement as part of their application for funding.

3.12.2.7 Type of financial support

Generic Services will be financed through grants. Support is limited to the activities defined in section 3.12.2.2.

Proposals may be submitted by one or more entities based in Member States and/or EEA countries participating in the CEF Telecom programme. Eligible organisations are defined under 3.12.2.2, according to the specific generic service developed.

Each request for hook-up, one-year maintenance and one-year operation of a generic service will be evaluated keeping in mind the specificity of the concerned module. Since a different generic service is required for connection to each European e-Justice Portal module, the same legal entity is allowed to submit multiple requests under this DSI, for

connection to each generic service it wants to deploy or to include all activities in one single proposal. For "Access to e-CODEX" Generic Services the deployment of eDelivery can be part of the proposal.

Applicants are encouraged to form consortia and to apply for financing of multiple Generic Services as part of the same proposal.

Title:	European e-Justice Portal
Indicative total budget for 2016:	EUR 2 million for Generic Services
Type of financial support:	Grants – call for proposals
Funding rate:	75% of the total eligible cost
Indicative duration of the action:	2 years
Indicative publication date:	Q2 2016

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 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 in compliance with the European Union Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation[35]. EU grants will be calculated on the basis of eligible costs. Details of eligible costs can be found in the model grant agreement. The financial assistance will respect the 75% maximum co-financing rate limit of the CEF Regulation. Specific eligibility criteria will be specified in the calls for proposals.

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, with the agreement[36] of the Member States concerned, by international organisations, joint undertakings, or public or private undertakings or bodies established in Member States.

European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries which are members of the European Economic Area (EEA) may also participate[37] in accordance with the conditions laid down in the EEA Agreement. Therefore, even when not explicitly mentioned in the WP text, it is intended that all calls for proposal are opened also to EEA countries based on the Decisions taken by the EEA Joint Committee[38], with the same rights and obligations as a Member State.

In addition, acceding States and candidate countries benefiting from a pre-accession strategy may participate in the CEF Telecom in accordance with agreements signed with the Union[39].

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[35] OJ C 323, 30.12.2006, p. 1.

[36] As indicated in Art.9.1 of the CEF Regulation (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).

[37] According to article 7.2 of Regulation (EU) No 283/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 on guidelines for trans-European networks in the area of telecommunications infrastructures and repealing Decision No 1336/97/EC.

[38] At the moment of writing these are Norway and Iceland.

[39] It is to be noted that at the time of writing no country in this situation has signed any agreement, so their participation is subject to the third countries criteria.

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

4.3.2   Making a proposal

Proposals should be submitted in accordance with the procedure defined in the call text. A Guide for Applicants containing full details on how to submit a proposal as well as all of the call documentation and background information pertaining to each call is available on the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA) website, accessible via the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility/cef-telecom/apply-funding

4.3.3   Evaluation process

The evaluation of proposals will be based on the principles of transparency and equal treatment. It will be carried out by the Commission services 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 a Selection Decision taking into account the scores and ranking of the proposals, the programme priorities and the available budget. In case it is specified in the DSI description that *only one proposal per Member State will be selected*, only the proposal with the higher ranking will be selected in case more proposals from a same Member State have passed the threshold. The Selection Decision will include proposals to be invited to prepare the Grant Agreement, a reserve list of proposals to be considered for funding 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) or presence of a better proposal for a same Member State in case this is applicable.

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

4.3.4 Selection of independent experts for evaluation and reviews

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 Framework Programme[40] and a list of experts appropriate to the requirements of the CEF Telecom and each individual call area will be established. Experts 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 Indicative implementation calendar

The indicative calendar for the implementation of CEF Telecom calls in 2016 is shown in the table below. The Commission expects to issue calls for proposals in accordance with this 2016 Work Programme.

More information about these calls is available on the INEA website via the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility/cef-telecom/apply-funding.

Date	Event
Q1	Call1 for Proposals is open
Q2	Call2 for Proposals is open
Q2	Call1 closes
Q3	Call3 for Proposals is open
Q3	Call4 for Proposals is open
Q3	Call2 closes
Q2 - Q3	Evaluation of Call1 proposals
Q4	Call4 closes
Q4	Call3 and Call 4 close
Q4	Evaluation of Call2 and Call4 proposals
Q1 2017	Signature of grant agreements related to Call1
Q1 2017	Evaluation of Call3 proposals
Q2 2017	Signature of grant agreements related to Call2 and Call4
Q3 2017	Signature of grant agreements related to Call3

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[40] http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/experts/index.html

5 PROGRAMME SUPPORT ACTIONS

5.1 Studies, communication and other measures

The legal bases foresee the possibility for studies and programme support actions in the field of broadband and digital service infrastructures aimed at maximising the impact of the EU intervention. Horizontal actions for 2016 will cover costs including preparation, evaluation, monitoring and studies. An amount of funding will be set aside to cover awareness and dissemination as it is crucial to effectively communicate about the value and benefits of CEF.

Studies

Studies will cover:

- Support activities to the mid-term evaluation of the Programme;
- Studies on Broadband statistics;
- Synergies with other EU initiatives e.g. European Cloud;
- eIDAS pilot programme for SMEs;
- Support to identification of possible new DSIs and evaluation of their maturity.

The Commission plans to procure via framework contracts and call for tenders indicatively 7 study contracts. The calls for tenders (or use of framework contracts) are indicatively planned to be launched in the second and third calendar quarter of 2016. Indicatively 6 direct new contracts and 2 specific contracts under existing framework contracts will be used.

Total indicative budget: EUR 2 331 781, of which EUR 500 000 from budget line 09 03 01 and EUR 1.831.781 from budget line 09 03 03.

Administrative agreement with IPTS

The administrative agreement will look into the implementation of envisaged investment in digital infrastructures and applications and improve the evidence base for sound policies and the CEF Broadband Technical Assistance. This will be in the context of regional and national initiatives such as Smart Specialisation strategies (RIS3) and the ICT Monitoring Tool and with particular regard to the potential of matching regional and national priorities to the objectives/goals of the Digital Single Market (e.g. in pan European collaborative constellations like Game Changers). It will also provide input for the midterm review of the MFF, feedback for the ESIF and related investments financial and policy instruments and finally investigate the implementation and impact if any of the game changers. The results are going to be used for the monitoring of envisaged ESIF investments and implementation of relevant OPs, create a sound basis for the ESIF midterm review, finance possible CEF Broadband Technical Assistance, reinforce synergies amongst other programmes and ESIF and refine and extend the concept of game changers. The 2016 commitment will cover a two-year contract.

Total indicative budget: EUR 497 000 from budget line 09 03 01

Communication activities

The Commission plans to procure via framework contracts and/or call for tenders communication activities to foster deployment, take-up and usage of the Digital Services offered by CEF. Envisaged communication actions will have to build and complement

on the already existing ones. Indicatively 1 direct new contract and 1 specific contract under existing framework contracts will be used.

Total indicative budget: EUR 1 000 000 from budget line 09 03 03.

Other

- Extension of the TENtec computerised data information system used in CEF Transport to CEF Telecom involving all stakeholders, providing an interactive beneficiary platform.

- Support to evaluation and project reviews[41], including the costs of use of the tools provided for in the H2020 Framework Programme.

Total indicative budget: EUR 747 925 from budget line 09 03 03.

5.2 Broadband Technical Assistance

Broadband Technical Assistance will provide guidance to potential project promoters on rolling-out high speed broadband. Amongst its activities, Broadband Technical Assistance will promote, and advise on, the use of financial instruments, including those available under CEF. In particular, Broadband Technical Assistance will promote potential voluntary ring-fenced contributions from ESI funds and national budgets to CEF. Thus, Broadband Technical Assistance will contribute to the improvement of the accessibility of EU-level financial instruments, including CEF, in order to maximise the efficiency and impact of public funding. The facility will be implemented in close co-operation with the European Investment Advisory Hub[42] to ensure coherence and efficiency in the use of EU funds.

The Support Facility of Broadband Technical Assistance will coordinate and facilitate the operations of Broadband Technical Assistance contact points designated or recruited out of the ESIF Programmes' for technical assistance and located within existing administrative structures.

The Support Facility will be partially funded under the present Work Programme through procurement. An indicative budget of the Support Facility will be EUR 3 million for a contract duration of three to four years, of which the contribution from the CEF Telecom Programme will be up to EUR 1 million, including EUR 333 000 committed in 2016. The remainder of the budget, not covered under this Work Programme, will be provided from Technical Assistance resources available under European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Indicatively 1 direct new contract and 1 specific contract under existing framework contracts will be used.

Broadband Technical Assistance contact points will not be financed under this Work Programme.

Total indicative budget: EUR 333 000 from budget line 09 03 01

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

[42] The European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH) is one of the windows of the European Fund for Strategic Investments which aims to enhance the environment for investment by addressing the main financial and non-financial obstacles. It provides a single point of entry to a wide range of advisory and technical assistance programmes and initiatives for public and private beneficiaries, provided by high-level experts, as well as cooperation platform to leverage, exchange and disseminate expertise among the EIAH partner institutions and beyond.

6 FURTHER INFORMATION

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.

ANNEXES

Annex 1 – Call for proposal fiches

- Call identifier: CEF-TC-2016-1
- Opening date: 25 February 2016 [43]
- Closing date: 19 May 2016[44]
- Indicative budget:
- Subject area: eProcurement, BRIS and EESSI
- 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-2016-2
- Opening date: 12 May 2016 [45]
- Closing date: 15 September 2016[46]
- Indicative budget:
- Subject area: eIdentification and eSignature, eDelivery, Open Data and eJustice Portal
- 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-2016-3
- Opening date: 13 September 2016 [47]
- Closing date: 15 December 2016[48]
- Indicative budget:
- Subject area: Europeana, eInvoicing, Automated Translation and Cyber Security
- 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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43 The Director-General responsible for the call may publish it up to one month prior of after the envisaged date of publication.

44 The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

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

46 The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

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

48 The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

- Call identifier: CEF-TC-2016-4
- Opening date: 13 September 2016 [49]
- Closing date: 18 October 2016[50]
- Indicative budget:
- Subject area: Safer Internet
- 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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[49] The Director-General responsible for the call may publish it up to one month prior of after the envisaged date of publication.

[50] The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

Annex 2 - Evaluation criteria for the Calls for Proposals

Admissibility conditions

To be considered admissible, a proposal must be:

− Submitted on time: proposals must be submitted by the date and time and through the submission means specified in the relevant call for proposals. Proposals must be submitted only as specified in the call: either electronically or on paper. The call deadline is a deadline for receipt of proposals (in the case of proposals submitted by post or courier services it is the date of sending by applicants).

− Complete: all requested information must be submitted by the call deadline, including the requested administrative data, signature(s) of the applicant(s), all application forms and their respective annexes (if applicable) and any supporting document(s) specified in the call for proposals. Incomplete proposals may be considered as inadmissible.

Eligibility criteria

Proposals will be eligible if they meet the following criteria:

− The proposal must include the agreement of the concerned Member State(s) as indicated in Art.9.1 of the CEF Regulation[51].

− The composition of the proposing consortium complies with the requirements set out in this Work Programme and call text.

− The proposal is submitted by legal persons as referred to in section 4.3.1.

− As a further eligibility criteria for funding, the present Work Programme establishes that proposals for generic services in the area of Safer Internet may only be submitted by a Member State or by entities established in a Member State or EEA country participating in the CEF Telecom programme where no Safer Internet Centre was selected for support under the previous Safer Internet call (CEF-TC-2015-1 of the 2015 Work Programme)

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

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[51] 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.

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 three 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 Section 3 and further specified in the call for proposals.

– 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 points is given (half points possible):

0. The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.

1. Very poor: The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.

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

3. Good: The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.

4. Very Good: The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.

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

Scoring: unless otherwise specified in the call conditions:

For all proposals, each criterion will be scored out of 5. The threshold for individual criteria will be 3. The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the three individual scores, will be 10.

Priority order for proposals with the same score

Unless the call conditions indicate otherwise, the following method will be applied:

At the end of the evaluation by independent experts, all the proposals under evaluation for a same call will be ranked, according to the scores obtained for of each of the award criteria as indicated above.

If necessary, a priority order for proposals which have obtained the same score within a ranked list will be determined. Whether or not such a prioritisation is carried out will depend on the available budget or other conditions set out in the call text. The following approach will be applied successively for every group of *ex aequo* proposals requiring prioritisation, starting with the highest scored group, and continuing in descending order:

   i.   Proposals submitted by organisations established in an eligible country which is not otherwise covered by more highly-ranked proposals, will be considered to have the highest priority (geographical coverage).

   ii. The proposals identified under (i), if any, will themselves be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the criterion *relevance*. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for the criterion *impact and sustainability*.

If a distinction still cannot be made, a further prioritisation can be done by considering the overall project portfolio and the creation of positive synergies between projects, or other factors related to the objectives of the call or to CEF in general. These factors will be documented in the evaluation report.

Annex 3 – Conformity with the legal base

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