Connecting Europe Facility — CEF Digital

The digital part of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF Digital) will support and catalyse both public and private investments in digital connectivity infrastructures between 2021 and 2027.

© European Commission

CEF Digital drives broadband investments in Europe

Making Europe more digital is one of the key challenges for our generation. The increase of online interactions and the emergence of new ways of living, working and doing business, has shown the central role that digital technologies play in our economy and society. In turn, digital technologies require appropriate digital connectivity infrastructures in order to function.

Despite this growing need for connectivity, there still is a significant gap in private and public funding. The Connecting Europe Facility – Digital comes as a response to this gap. Together with other funding instruments, including the Recovery and Resilience Facility and the InvestEU, CEF Digital will help support an unprecedented amount of investments devoted to safe, secure, and sustainable high-performance infrastructure. In particular, Gigabit and 5G networks across the EU. This action will be important in supporting Europe’s digital transformation, as outlined in the Path to the Digital Decade proposal.

Furthermore, CEF Digital will contribute to the increased capacity and resilience of digital backbone infrastructures in all EU territories, in particular the Outermost Regions. This is crucial for Europe’s ambition to continue being digitally sovereign and independent in the years to come.

The main actions foreseen under CEF Digital include:

- Deploying very high-capacity networks, including 5G systems, in areas where socioeconomic drivers are located (see 5G connectivity for smart communities);
- Guaranteeing uninterrupted coverage with 5G systems of all major transport paths, including the trans-European transport networks (see 5G coverage along cross-border corridors);
- Deploying new or a significant upgrade of existing backbone networks, including submarine cables, within and between Member States and between the Union and third countries (see the European Quantum Communication Infrastructure Initiative, Backbone networks for pan-European cloud federations, Backbone connectivity for Digital Global Gateways);
- Implementing and supporting digital connectivity infrastructure related to cross-border projects in the areas of transport or energy (see Coordination and Support Action).

Subscribe to the latest news on this topic and more
CEF Digital: Second Calls for proposals [Open]
CEF Digital: National Contact Points
CEF Digital: Implementation details
Multiannual work programme for 2021-2025
CEF Digital: Information Day on the second set of calls
Follow the latest progress and learn more about getting involved.
Latest news

PRESS RELEASE | 12 October 2022
Launch of new calls for proposals, with budget €277 million, to support investments in digital connectivity infrastructures

The Commission has launched the second set of calls for proposals under the Connecting Europe Facility Digital programme.

POLICY AND LEGISLATION | 31 August 2022
Synergies between shared and direct management
The Commission services have developed a draft guidance document to provide practical details of the implementation of the different synergy mechanisms between Horizon Europe and the European Regional Development Fund. This draft guidance document contains elements relevant for the Digital Europe programme and the Connecting Europe Facility.

NEWS ARTICLE | 17 March 2022
Connecting Europe Facility - Digital: calls for proposals’ deadline extended until 20 April 2022

The deadline to apply for the first set of calls for proposals under the Connecting Europe Facility Digital programme has been extended until 20 April 2022.

NEWS ARTICLE | 25 January 2022
CEF Digital: Operational Digital Platforms

Under the Commission’s Connecting Europe Facility programme, Operational Digital Platforms will be set up to boost the digitalisation of European transport and energy networks.

Browse CEF - Connecting Europe Facility
Event

- 25-10-2022
  Virtual info day for second Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Digital calls
- 20-09-2022
  Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Digital info session: Backbone Connectivity for Digital Global Gateways
- 20-09-2022
  Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Digital Matchmaking: 5G for Smart Communities

More
Related Content

Big Picture
Funding for Digital in the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework

The EU’s long-term EU budget, also known as the multiannual financial framework, will boost digital technologies and aid in recovery from the pandemic.

Dig deeper
Backbone networks for pan-European cloud federations
The European Commission is investing in backbone networks for pan-European cloud federations that guarantee access to reliable infrastructures and services.

**Backbone connectivity for Digital Global Gateways**

High-quality backbone connectivity is essential to the performance and resilience of electronic communications networks.

**5G for smart communities**

The CEF2 Digital programme will grant funds for the rapid deployment and take up of 5G for smart communities and innovative applications.

**See Also**

**EU support for the digital public sector**

The Commission wants to ensure the public sector is able to keep pace with new technologies and benefit from innovation.

**EU support for education and training**

The Commission offers a number of education and training opportunities to help you get started in digital, such as entrepreneurship guidance, exchanges and more.

**EU support for businesses in the digital world**

The EU offers a range of support for businesses, from start-ups to scale-ups to small and medium enterprises and beyond. You can find out more on this page.

**EU support for researchers and digital innovators**

The Commission offers a range of support to researchers and digital innovators, from programmes such as Horizon Europe to innovation funding and more.

**The Digital Europe Programme**

The Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL) is a new EU funding programme focused on bringing digital technology to businesses, citizens and public administrations.
Other related content

5G cross-border corridors

EU countries and industry are cooperating to prepare the large-scale deployment of 5G corridors for...

The European Quantum Communication Infrastructure (EuroQCI) Initiative

The EuroQCI initiative aims to build a secure quantum communication infrastructure that will span...

Source URL: https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/activities/cef-digital