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.

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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).

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CEF Digital: Information Day on the third set of calls
Call 1 Results
CEF Digital: National Contact Points
Multiannual work programme for 2021-2023
Follow the latest progress and learn more about getting involved.
42 projects selected for EU funding of up to €260 million under second CEF Digital calls

The projects will receive funding to deploy safe, secure, and sustainable high-performance 5G and digital backbone infrastructure, for a total funding amount of up to €260 million.

Over €240 million to further support digital connectivity infrastructures
The Commission has opened a third set of calls for proposals worth over €240 million under the digital strand of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) to strengthen the deployment of ultra-fast, secure and sustainable digital infrastructures.

NEWS ARTICLE | 12 June 2023
The next phase of J-Ark is looking for your input

J-Ark, the project funded under CEF Telecom eArchiving, extends an invitation to technology and content partners for collaboration.

NEWS ARTICLE | 30 January 2023
Deadlines extended for the second calls under CEF Digital

The deadlines to apply for the second set of calls for proposals under the Connecting Europe Facility Digital Programme worth €277 million have been extended.

Browse Connecting Europe Facility
Event

- 07-12-2023
  5G for Smart Communities Capacity Building and Pitch Opportunity

- 07-11-2023
  Info Day & Matchmaking CEF Digital Call 3: 5G and Edge Cloud for Smart Communities

- 26-10-2023
  CEF Digital Info Day - Call for proposals 3
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


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


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


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

See Also


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


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


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.

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 (DIGITAL) is a new EU funding programme focused on bringing digital technology to businesses, citizens and public administrations.

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