

# The evaluation process and award criteria

# CEF- Transport evaluation process



# 1. Admissibility check

## **Admissible proposal** (section 5 of call document):

- is electronically submitted on time,
- contains the forms provided inside the Submission System, and
- is complete:

**Application Form Part A** — contains administrative information about the participants and the summarised budget for the project (to be filled in directly online)

**Application Form Part B** — contains the technical description of the project (to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded)

**Mandatory Annexes**

# Mandatory annexes

- Agreement by the concerned Member States** (benefitting from the project) – for all applications
- Detailed budget table per Work Package and calculator** – for all applications
- Timetable/Gantt chart** – for all applications
- Environmental compliance file** - for all applications except ERTMS and RFN
- Activity reports of last year and List of previous projects** (key projects for the last 4 years) (template available in Part B) - except exempted from operational capacity check: Public bodies, Member State organisations, international organisations, and beneficiaries of grants under CEF 1 and 2.
- Full cost-benefit analysis (CBA) report and CBA cash flow template** - only for works or mixed projects with a budget (eligible costs) above EUR 10 million
- Simplified CBA calculator** – only for works or mixed projects with a budget (eligible costs) below EUR 10 million

# Lessons learnt from the Admissibility check under 2021 calls

- ❑ Incomplete application forms:
  - ❑ No grant amount requested in part A of the AF, wrong **budget** uploaded not corresponding to requested amount in SEP
  - ❑ **MS Agreement** not signed; agreements from other concerned MS (benefiting from the project) missing
  - ❑ Missing and/or incomplete **Environmental Compliance File**: e.g. not duly signed, dated and stamped declarations by the competent authority for NATURA 2000 and Water Framework Directive
  - ❑ **CBA report** referring to another proposal, CBA report is an empty document, missing **Cash Flow template** or **Simplified CBA Calculator**,
  - ❑ Missing **activity report of last year** (private bodies),
  - ❑ Incorrect **Gantt chart** referring to a project other than the submitted proposal

## 2. Eligibility check

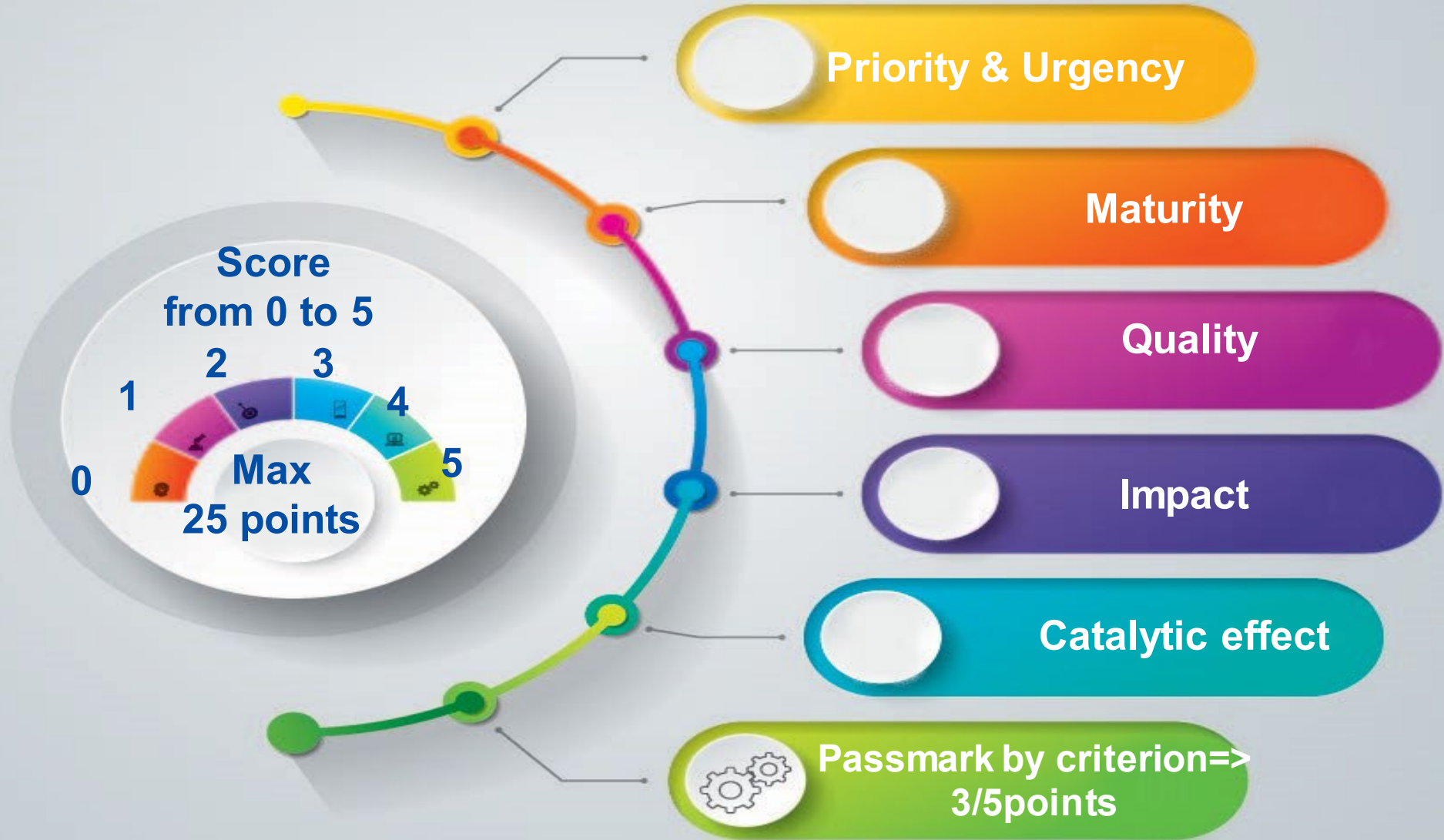
### Eligible proposal (section 5 of call document):

- Submitted by **applicants** who are legal entities (public or private bodies) established in the EU Member States (for the General calls) and established in one of the Member States eligible for funding from the Cohesion Fund (for the Cohesion calls);
- The **activities** proposed are within the technical scope of the topic described in section 2 of call document;
- The **geographic location** of the project is on the TEN-T network (core and/or comprehensive)
- The **duration of the project** for works or mixed projects should be 4-5 years maximum, and for studies projects it should be 2-3 years maximum.
  - The earliest starting date may be the proposal submission
  - The end date cannot be later than 31/12/2027
- Any **budget** requested is admitted – but recommended to be min EUR 1 million of EU contribution requested.

## Lessons learnt from the Eligibility check under 2021 calls

- ❑ Proposal submitted by an applicant from a non-eligible country
- ❑ Location of the proposal - **not on the TEN-T network**
- ❑ **Project's start date** in parts A and B of AF - in different times
- ❑ **Project duration** wrongly calculated
- ❑ Project proposal being '**out of scope**' under the topic submitted
- ❑ **Project proposal** and the Global Project - **insufficiently clear**

# 3. Evaluation - Award criteria





## Priority & Urgency

- ❑ **Correspondence with overall EU objectives** (Green Deal) and sectoral – TEN-T network, including CB link as listed in part III of Annex to CEF Regulation, contribution to the corridor work plans and any network effect
- ❑ **Relevance:** if the proposal addresses the WP/Call/Topic objectives
- ❑ **EU added-value:** EU interest demonstrated and benefits vs national/regional/local level
- ❑ Synergies with other EU programmes, other CEF sectors (Energy and Digital), and synergetic elements (for Works topics only)
- ❑ Taking into account:
  - ❑ the EU new situation created by the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine,
  - ❑ the communication on solidarity lanes (COM/2022/217/Final), and
  - ❑ the EU mission on the “100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities”.

## Maturity

- ❑ **Readiness/ability of the project to start** by the proposed start date and to complete by the proposed end date (technical maturity – under responsibility of the applicants),
- ❑ **Status of the necessary contracting procedures and permits** (procedural maturity – beyond the remit of the applicant),
- ❑ **Financial availability needed to complement the CEF investment** (financial maturity – funds needed for completing the project), and
- ❑ **Correspondence** between the **technical planning and financial profile**.
- ❑ **Works/mixed proposals: demonstrating key steps of the environmental impact assessment by the date of application:** an EIA report prepared by the project promoter and consultations carried out under the EIA Directive, to be followed by the development consent procedure that may be completed after the submission of the CEF application

## Quality

- ❑ **Operational capacity check:** Assessing the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams
- ❑ The **implementation plan proposed**, from technical (WP well structured) and financial (cost effective) point of view,
- ❑ Design approach, the **organisational structures** (project management) put in place (or foreseen) for the implementation,
- ❑ **Risk analysis/management**, the **control and quality procedures**, and
- ❑ The **communication** strategy to provide visibility to **CEF funding**,
- ❑ **Sustainability** and **maintenance** strategy for the completed project, if applicable for works

## Impact

- ❑ **Socio-economic impact *of the project*** – based on the CBA analysis when applicable
- ❑ **Environmental and climate impact** of the project - climate change targets, impact on air pollutants, and (possible) greenhouse gas emission reductions
- ❑ **Climate resilience** (for Works topics)

*- measures of climate proofing set for mitigation and adaptation of the proposed infrastructure (as specified in the Technical guidance on the climate proofing of infrastructure)*

*As indicated in the WP, climate proofing is recommended (not yet required) for projects with already key steps of the EIA completed.*

## Impact

- ❑ Other impacts on **congestion, modal split, safety and security, service quality, and noise emissions**
- ❑ **Decision-making tool**, input for policy making or development of best practices (for Studies topics)
- ❑ Effects on the **interoperability** of the transport systems/modes and territorial **accessibility** in the TEN-T network (i.e. the cross-border dimension), **innovation and digitalisation, competition, regional and local development and land use, and outermost regions.**

## Catalytic Effect

- ❑ Effect of the **CEF funding on the realisation of the project**
- ❑ **Overcoming a financial gap** generated by insufficient financial viability, high upfront costs and/or the lack of market finance
- ❑ **Financial leverage**: Increasing the capacity to mobilise differentiated sources i.e. public and private investments & accelerating the overall investment plan
- ❑ Improving the **quality of the project**
- ❑ Effects on the **stakeholder commitment/acceptance of the project**

# Lessons learnt from the evaluation of proposals under 2021 calls

## ❑ Low quality of the description of proposals:

- ❑ Work packages detailed unclearly – with insufficient number of milestones and unclear deliverables
- ❑ Work packages covering several distinct tasks – with no costs broken down (per task) res
- ❑ Limited risk analysis with incomplete mitigation measures
- ❑ Communication tasks described too vaguely