



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

MEMO

Bridging the investment gap in transport

Results of the 2021 Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Transport calls for proposals

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CEF – Connecting Europe Facility

What is CEF?

The Connecting Europe Facility ([CEF](#)) is a key EU funding instrument to promote growth, jobs and competitiveness through targeted infrastructure investment at European level. It supports the development of high performing, sustainable, intelligent and efficiently interconnected trans-European networks in the fields of transport, energy and digital services. CEF investments fill the missing links in Europe's energy, transport and digital backbone.

The [CEF Transport programme](#) implements the European Union's transport infrastructure policy by supporting investments in building or upgrading transport infrastructure across Europe.

The programme focuses on cross-border projects, projects that remove bottlenecks or bridge missing links on the Trans-European Transport Network. This includes various sections of the TEN-T [Core Network](#) (nine pan-European Corridors to be completed by 2030 - including the most important connections between urban nodes), the [Comprehensive Network](#) (covering all European regions and to be completed by 2050) as well as horizontal priorities such as traffic management systems.

CEF Transport also supports innovation in the transport system in order to improve the use of infrastructure, reduce the environmental impact of transport, enhance energy efficiency and increase safety. The programme helps deliver on EU priorities like the [EU Green Deal](#) and the [Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy](#).

Why do we need investment in transport infrastructure?

Transport faces a wide range of challenges across the EU. Significant investment is needed to complete the TEN-T Network and financing gaps remain in several areas. Many bottlenecks still have to be removed and there are parts of the infrastructure that need upgrading and modernisation. The European Commission's [InvestEU Programme](#) as well as the Connecting Europe Facility are two of the EU's funding instruments which help address these issues, paving the way for the competitive and sustainable EU transport system of tomorrow.

The 2021 CEF Transport calls for proposals

What are the 2021 CEF Transport calls under the General and Cohesion envelopes?

They are the first calls under 2021-2027 Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) for Transport programme with an indicative budget of EUR 5.145 billion. 10 calls were launched on 16 September 2021 with the aim to finance transport infrastructure projects in the European Union.

What are the objectives of 2021 CEF Transport calls for proposals?

The general objective of these calls was to contribute to the completion of the TEN-T network by supporting infrastructure projects in the following domains:

- Railways, inland waterways, maritime and inland ports, roads, rail-road terminals and multimodal logistics platforms on the Core and Comprehensive TEN-T networks
- Smart applications for transport (European Rail Traffic Management System, Intelligent Transport Systems for Road, Single European Sky ATM Research, River Information Systems,)
- Transport interoperability
- Motorways of the Sea
- Multimodal passenger hubs
- Reduction of rail freight noise
- Safe and secure parking infrastructure
- Road safety
- Improvement of transport infrastructure resilience, in particular to climate change and natural disasters
- Adaptation of transport infrastructure for Union external border checks purposes

What types of projects could receive funding?

The 2021 CEF Transport calls were open for project proposals addressing works and/or studies.

How many applications were received?

By the call's deadline of 19 January 2022, the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) received 399 proposals, for a total of EUR 14 billion of requested co-funding. These numbers do not include the [Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Facility \(1st cut-off date\)](#) and [Military Mobility calls](#), which have been launched at the same time but evaluated separately.

How many projects will get CEF funding under the 2021 CEF Transport calls for proposals?

135 project proposals were selected for funding for a total of EUR 5.4 billion. Again, these numbers do not include the [Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Facility \(1st cut-off date\)](#) and [Military Mobility calls](#), which have been launched at the same time but evaluated separately.

The European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency ([CINEA](#)) will now start the preparation of the individual grant agreements with project beneficiaries.

How will the projects be managed?

The European Commission manages the CEF Programme centrally, sets the political priorities and is responsible for the selection of projects through competitive calls for proposals.

CINEA assists the European Commission for the evaluation and selection of the projects and for the overall technical and financial monitoring during their implementation.

Beneficiaries in the Member States manage the projects.

An overview of all projects co-funded by the CEF programme is available on [CINEA's website](#).