
Commission to Invest €865 Million Under CEF to Support Fast and Secure Digital Connectivity Networks



The Commission has adopted the second Work Programme for the digital part of the [Connecting Europe Facility \(CEF\) Digital](#), which defines the scope and objectives of EU-funded actions to improve Europe's digital connectivity infrastructures. These actions will receive around **€865 million** of funding from 2024 to 2027.

Improving Europe's connectivity infrastructure is fundamental for achieving Europe's [2030 Digital Decade](#) objectives to connect all citizens and business with 5G and gigabit connectivity. By fostering public and private investments, CEF Digital contributes to connectivity projects of common EU interest and to the deployment of safe, secure and sustainable high-performance infrastructure, such as Gigabit and 5G networks, across the EU.

The new CEF Digital Work Programme will support actions in the following areas:

1. The **deployment of 5G infrastructures in Europe**, co-financing large-scale projects promoting the rollout of Gigabit and standalone 5G infrastructures, as well as the integration of edge cloud and computing capabilities in vertical sectoral applications, such as health, manufacturing, transport, and logistics;
2. The **deployment and significant upgrade of backbone networks**, including quantum communication networks and submarine cables, to increase the performance, resilience, and capacity of connectivity networks within and between Member States, as well as between the Union and third countries;
3. The **deployment of operational digital platforms for transport or energy infrastructures**, by optimising the energy use of information and communication technology (ICT) and reducing its environmental impact. These operational digital platforms will build on and integrate with existing and emerging European data, cloud and edge computing, and connectivity infrastructures, funded by the Digital Europe Programme and Horizon Europe.

The second CEF Digital Work Programme will also help stimulate the competitiveness of the European digital ecosystem, in order to address the critical geopolitical and geoeconomic challenges highlighted, among others, by the [White Paper "How to master Europe's digital infrastructure needs?"](#). CEF Digital also aims to increase the capacity, security, and resilience of digital backbone networks, in particular submarine cables. Moreover, it will contribute to leveraging public and private resources to tackle the investment gap that hinders the rollout of high-performance networks, essential for the take-up of advanced technologies by citizens and businesses.

Next Steps

The fourth call under the Connecting Europe Facility Digital programme will be launched in the following days. Interested stakeholders will also be able to attend info days after the launch to find out more about the priorities and main aspects of the calls, as well as the evaluation and award processes.

Background

With a budget of up to €2 billion until 2027, under the Connecting Europe Facility Digital programme, the first two sets of calls so far funded 65 projects, including 30 [backbone connectivity projects](#) for the Digital Global Gateways, 17 projects promoting [5G for Smart Communities](#), and 18 projects in the area of [5G cross-border corridors](#).

CEF Digital supports Europe's digital transformation and it is part of the overall [Connecting Europe Facility programme](#), which supports

investment in trans-European digital, transport and energy networks, worth €33.7 billion from 2021 to 2027.

Source: [European Commission](#)

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