

# Mid-term evaluation of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) (General questionnaire)

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

## **ORGALIME RESPONSES ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN YELLOW**

### A. About you

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This section consists of questions about the respondent. We would like to know who our respondents are in order to better understand their perspective, expectations and needs regarding the Connecting Europe Facility.

\*1. In what capacity are you responding to this consultation?

- In my private capacity (i.e. as an individual)
- On behalf of an organisation/institution

\*1.1. If you respond on behalf on an organisation/institution, which one do you represent?

- European Institution
- National Ministry
- Regional/local Authority
- Infrastructure manager
- Infrastructure operator
- Standardisation body
- IT solution provider
- Industry
- Consulting company involved or commissioned in preparing the proposals
- University/Research center
- Civil society organizations (NGOs, think tanks, consumer associations)
- Other European Bodies
- Other

1.1.1. Please specify "other"

\*2. Is the entity on whose behalf you are replying registered in the EU Transparency Register?  
If your organisation is not registered, we invite you to [register](#), although it is not compulsory to be registered to reply to this consultation.

[Why a transparency register?](#)

Yes

No

\*2.1. If so, please indicate the registration number in the Transparency Register (**30 character(s) maximum**)

**ID 20210641335-88**

\*3. Please communicate your contact details (name, email address) in order to reach you

\*4. In which country are you located?

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Austria            | <input type="radio"/> Lithuania       |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Belgium | <input type="radio"/> Luxembourg      |
| <input type="radio"/> Bulgaria           | <input type="radio"/> Malta           |
| <input type="radio"/> Croatia            | <input type="radio"/> Netherlands     |
| <input type="radio"/> Cyprus             | <input type="radio"/> Poland          |
| <input type="radio"/> Czech Republic     | <input type="radio"/> Portugal        |
| <input type="radio"/> Denmark            | <input type="radio"/> Romania         |
| <input type="radio"/> Estonia            | <input type="radio"/> Slovak Republic |
| <input type="radio"/> Finland            | <input type="radio"/> Slovenia        |
| <input type="radio"/> France             | <input type="radio"/> Spain           |
| <input type="radio"/> Germany            | <input type="radio"/> Sweden          |
| <input type="radio"/> Greece             | <input type="radio"/> United Kingdom  |
| <input type="radio"/> Hungary            | <input type="radio"/> Iceland         |
| <input type="radio"/> Ireland            | <input type="radio"/> Liechtenstein   |
| <input type="radio"/> Italy              | <input type="radio"/> Norway          |
| <input type="radio"/> Latvia             | <input type="radio"/> Other           |

\*4.1. If "other", please specify:

\*5. How familiar are you with the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Programme?

Very familiar

Quite familiar

Somewhat familiar

Quite familiar

Not at all

\*6. In which sector are you working in or related to (multiple answers are possible)?

Transport

Energy

Telecommunications/ICT

Other

\*6.1. If "other", please specify:

\*7. Your contribution

Note that, whatever option chosen, your answers may be subject to a request for public access to documents under [Regulation \(EC\) N°1049/2001](#)

can be published with your personal information (I consent the publication of all information in my contribution in whole or in part including my name or my organisation's name, and I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent publication)

can be published provided that you remain anonymous (I consent to the publication of any information in my contribution in whole or in part (which may include quotes or opinions I express) provided that it is done anonymously. I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent the publication.

## B. Relevance

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The following questions examine how well the objectives and activities of the CEF Programme fit its purpose, namely supporting investment in trans-European transport, energy and telecommunications networks.

1. In your opinion, should investing in the fields of transport, energy and telecommunications be an EU priority?

Yes

No

2. In your opinion, how important is each of the following CEF objectives to the goal of developing trans-European transport, energy and telecommunications networks?

- A: Very important
- B: Important
- C: Moderately important
- D: Slightly important
- E: Not important
- F: I don't know

	A	B	C	D	E	F
Develop the physical transportation, energy and telecommunications infrastructure	X					
Reduce disparities in social and economic development across the regions of the EU						
Create an environment that attracts private financing to infrastructure projects	X					
Develop projects that combine infrastructures for transportation, energy and ICT (e.g.: intelligent and sustainable transport systems)	X					
Improve the competitiveness of the transport, energy and telecommunications sectors on the global market		X				
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy	X					

3. In your opinion, how determining are the following features of the CEF programme for addressing the CEF sub-objectives presented in question B.2 above?

- A: Very important
- B: Important
- C: Moderately important
- D: Slightly important
- E: Not important
- F: I don't know

	A	B	C	D	E	F
The focus on multisectoral (transport, energy and telecommunications) projects and potential synergies	X					

The focus on crossborder projects and promoting better connections between infrastructures and network	X					
Financing of projects and studies through non-repayable grants	X					
Financing of projects and studies through repayable instruments such as loans, guarantees and equity (Loans, guarantee and equity are part of the European Investments Bank financial products where the EU budget can be used for attracting private investment to a project/corporate. See more at: <a href="http://femip10.eib.org/products/index.htm">http://femip10.eib.org/products/index.htm</a> )	X					
Direct purchase of services via procurement						
Providing technical assistance to help prepare and deliver projects						

## C. Coherence

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The question in this section look at the complementarities, consistencies, overlaps or contradictions that may exist both internally to the Program between its various parts, and externally with other EU interventions in terms of objectives, scope and activities

1. To what extent do you agree that the transport, energy and telecommunications sectors face common challenges?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

1.1. If you agree or strongly agree, please explain to which extent **(2000 character (s) maximum)**

The ongoing digitisation of industry requires infrastructure investment in all three sectors that are heavily interlinked with each other (e.g.: electric vehicles require the underlying physical transport, energy and communication infrastructure, including an electricity market design that empowers consumers. Consumers should be in a position to self-generate, store and self-consume energy such as for e-vehicles charging, while connecting e-vehicles infrastructures in buildings with the grid is fit to leverage stress on the electricity grid (e-vehicles as storage facility) and thereby support grid stability and security of supply. The same applies for deploying cooperative intelligent transport systems (C-ITS) in Europe.

2. In your opinion is the approach of combining all three sectors under one funding instrument the correct one, or should each sector have a separate programme on its own?

- One overall funding instrument for all three sectors
- One funding instrument per sector
- I don't know

2.1. Please explain why **(2000 character (s) maximum)**

The funding of energy projects has been too low in the past. However, given the interlinkages of the sector, separate programmes are not necessarily the solution. We suggest striving for a better balance of allocation of budget for each of the three sectors, especially in support of the Commission's headline priorities, and the implementation of the Clean Energy Package and Digital Single Market in particular.

3. The CEF Programme is just one of a number of EU programmes designed to support investments, including in the transport, energy and telecommunications sectors. How would you describe the complementary between CEF and the following EU funding instruments?

- A: Excellent
- B: Good
- C: Fair
- D: Poor
- E: I don't know

	A	B	C	D	E
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)					
European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI)				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Cohesion Fund					
Horizon 2020				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

3.1. Please explain why **(2000 character(s) maximum)**

Too few Smart Grids projects qualify for financing under the Connecting Europe Facility today. This stems from the in our view inappropriate 10kV threshold of the TEN-E Regulation, which is the relevant legal basis for projects eligible for CEF funding. Only projects on the EU wide Projects of Common Interest list qualify for CEF funding. Only few Smart Grids Projects are on this list.

Therefore, we have suggested to prioritise projects aiming at the modernisation of the EU's energy system under EFSI. Progress is made in the area of energy efficiency, however, smart grids projects remain an issue.

Also, we observe that some CEF-funded projects are of a rather traditional and national-oriented nature, although innovation and cross-border impact are criteria of the CEF regulation. Therefore, we are rather pleased to see the wider possibilities offered by EFSI to overcome this mismatch. However, we reaffirm our view that there is a huge risk to lose the trust of the private sector when reallocating money from the existing CEF programme, especially if it means moving money from energy projects to non-energy areas. We urge decision-makers to be extremely careful not to disturb the ongoing process.

Moreover, the complementarity between CEF and Horizon2020 should be further improved. While it is recognized that CEF supports infrastructure development and Horizon2020 funds research and innovation, the selection of projects and related actions (studies and works) under CEF should rely on best practices stemming from Horizon2020 innovative projects in order to allow the development of a modern and efficient infrastructure network at the forefront of EU key technologies already commercially available, yet not fully deployed in the EU market because of lack of knowledge and awareness.

## D. EU added value

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The questions in this section look at the extent to which the EU level CEF Programme creates benefits that are additional to the value that would have otherwise been created by Member State action alone, both at public and private level.

1. In your opinion, what benefits do you expect the CEF Programme to produce? (Multiple answers possible)

- Promotion of transnational cooperation
- Reduce barriers to cross-border network connections with sectors
- Generation of economies of scale
- Greater overall investment levels in energy, transport and telecommunications sectors
- None
- Other

1.1. If "other", please specify:

Modernisation of the EU energy and transport networks in order to ensure CEF consistency with EU 2030 Energy and Climate Framework, Energy Union Strategy, new Clean Energy Package and COP21 commitment and help the EU to concretely achieve them.

2. How do you rate the overall added value of CEF compared to other CEF programmes at national and/or regional level?

- Substantial higher
- Somewhat higher
- Similar
- Somewhat lower
- Substantially lower

## E. Effectiveness

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The following section tackles the extent to which the CEF is progressing in achieving its general objectives as listed in question B.2 above, as well as its contribution to EU policy.

1. In your view, to what extent has the transport, energy and telecommunications infrastructure in your country improved over the last three years?

- Substantial improvement
- Moderate improvement
- Minor improvement
- No improvement
- I don't know

2. Do you observe so far any positive and valuable contribution from CEF in the following fields?

- A: Great contribution
- B: Moderate contribution
- C: Minor contribution
- D: No contribution
- E: I don't know

	A	B	C	D	E
Development of modern high-performing interoperable trans-European transport network			X		
Development of modern high-performing interoperable trans-European energy networks			X		
Development of modern high-performing interoperable trans-European telecommunications networks					
Development of modern interoperable digital services infrastructures					
Improvement of the competitiveness of the transport sector on the global market					
Improvement of the competitiveness of the energy sector on the global market				X	
Improvement of the competitiveness of the telecommunications sector on the global market					
Increase in availability of digital services infrastructures					
Development of projects enabling synergies across the transport, energy and telecommunications sectors			X		
Reduce disparities in economic development across the regions of the EU					
Reduce disparities in social development across the regions of the EU					
Strengthening the integration of, and cooperation between the regions of the EU					
Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, increase of energy efficiency and use of renewable energy			X		



## F. Forward-looking questions

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1. In your opinion, is there still a need to continue EU financial support for infrastructure investment in the fields of transport, energy and telecommunications?

Yes

Yes, albeit in a slightly different manner

Yes, albeit in a significantly manner

No

I don't know

2. What could the CEF do differently? (2000 character(s) maximum)

CEF-Energy should focus more on infrastructure modernisation, energy efficiency and sustainability through funding infrastructure of the future instead of the past. EU infrastructure not only needs to be developed and interconnected, but also be deployed in the most efficient and innovative way to implement the EU's "Energy Efficiency First" principle, EU 2030 energy and climate targets, the new Clean Energy Package and COP21 commitments. Thereby, CEF will effectively contribute to EU energy security, competitiveness, environmental sustainability, jobs creation and growth.

- Priority should be given to the sustainability criteria (art. 4 of CEF Regulation 347/2013) throughout the evaluation and selection of PCIs and correspondent actions (studies and works) to be financed under CEF;
- Energy efficiency should also be included among the award criteria for selecting PCIs and actions (studies and works) financed under CEF. Moreover, priority/strong added-value should be recognised to the energy efficiency criteria in the project evaluation process.

As long as smart grids projects fall short under TEN-E/CEF, we recommend to strive for better complementarity of CEF with EFSI: EFSI should better support investments in the modernisation of energy networks, energy efficiency and smarter technologies, in the areas of buildings, transport, energy and industry, such as through:

- Complementing the support for PCIs by closing the gap of the TEN-E Regulation for smart grids projects.
- Building electricity interconnections and electricity highways: there are too few of such projects in the current PCI Union wide list.
- Ensuring the necessary investments in a flexible European power system: storage technologies and demand side management are needed to integrate intermittent renewable energy, highly flexible power generation.
- Reinforcing investment in broadband networks prioritising investment in networks required by the manufacturing sector for the digitalisation / connectivity of products, processes and services (industrial internet).
- Including transport projects to further develop the high-speed trans-European rail infrastructure.
- Supporting investments in alternative fuels infrastructure (e-mobility and shore-side electricity in harbours).

For further information, please contact:

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