

The Connecting Europe Facility 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 – ex-post and interim evaluations

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) was set up as a common financing programme to build, develop, modernise and complete the trans-European networks in the transport, energy and telecommunications /digital sectors. It started under the previous Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) from 2014-2020 (CEF1) and continued under the current MFF 2021-2027 (CEF2).

In the transport sector, CEF supports infrastructure projects intended to complete the trans-European transport network and to modernise it. CEF projects are mostly located on the TEN-T core network, connecting major cities (to be completed by 2030), but also on the TEN-T comprehensive network, connecting all EU regions to the core network (to be completed by 2050). The total budget allocated to transport in CEF1 amounts to EUR 24.1 billion and EUR 25.8 billion in CEF2.

In the energy sector, CEF contributes to the implementation of projects that strengthen cross-border energy infrastructure in the transition to climate neutrality, the integration of European energy markets and the interoperability of electricity and gas networks. The CEF Energy budget is allocated to so-called Projects of Common Interest (PCIs), cross-border infrastructure projects that link the energy systems of EU countries, or Projects of Mutual Interest (PMIs) that involve countries outside the EU. CEF2 also supports cross-border projects in the field of renewable energy. The budget allocated to energy in CEF1 is EUR 5.35 billion and EUR 5.89 billion for CEF2.

During CEF1, the third pillar of CEF supported the telecommunications sector. It focused on projects that promote interoperability, connectivity, sustainable deployment, the running and upgrading of trans-European digital service infrastructures and investment to stimulate the roll-out and modernisation of broadband networks. The budget allocated to CEF Telecommunications is EUR 1 billion.

During CEF2, the third pillar of CEF targets the digital sector. It finances projects ensuring uninterrupted 5G coverage along major transport routes; deploying new backbone networks or significantly upgrading existing ones; and deploying and ensuring access to very high-capacity networks, including 5G systems. The deployment of strategic backbone networks is part of the Digital Global Gateway Strategy of the EU, aiming to strengthen the quality and resilience of connectivity between EU countries, as well as with third countries. The budget allocated to CEF Digital is EUR 2.07 billion.

About you

* Language of my contribution

- ☐ Bulgarian
- ☐ Croatian

- ☐ Czech
- ☐ Danish
- ☐ Dutch
- ☒ English
- ☐ Estonian
- ☐ Finnish
- ☐ French
- ☐ German
- ☐ Greek
- ☐ Hungarian
- ☐ Irish
- ☐ Italian
- ☐ Latvian
- ☐ Lithuanian
- ☐ Maltese
- ☐ Polish
- ☐ Portuguese
- ☐ Romanian
- ☐ Slovak
- ☐ Slovenian
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Swedish

* I am giving my contribution as

- ☐ Academic/research institution
- ☐ Business association
- ☒ Company/business
- ☐ Consumer organisation
- ☐ EU citizen
- ☐ Environmental organisation
- ☐ Non-EU citizen
- ☐ Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- ☐ Public authority
- ☐ Trade union
- ☐ Other

* First name

Christian

* Surname

Kjaer

* Email (this won't be published)

christian.kjaer@supernode.energy

* Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

SuperNode Ltd

* Organisation size

- ☐ Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- ☐ Small (10 to 49 employees)
- ☒ Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- ☐ Large (250 or more)

Transparency register number

Check if your organisation is on the transparency register. It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

094663852976-33

* Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

This list does not represent the official position of the European institutions with regard to the legal status or policy of the entities mentioned. It is a harmonisation of often divergent lists and practices.

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|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ Afghanistan | ☐ Djibouti | ☐ Libya | ☐ Saint Martin |
| ☐ Åland Islands | ☐ Dominica | ☐ Liechtenstein | ☐ Saint Pierre and Miquelon |
| ☐ Albania | ☐ Dominican Republic | ☐ Lithuania | ☐ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |
| ☐ Algeria | ☐ Ecuador | ☐ Luxembourg | ☐ Samoa |

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| ○ American Samoa | ○ Egypt | ○ Macau | ○ San Marino |
| ○ Andorra | ○ El Salvador | ○ Madagascar | ○ São Tomé and Príncipe |
| ○ Angola | ○ Equatorial Guinea | ○ Malawi | ○ Saudi Arabia |
| ○ Anguilla | ○ Eritrea | ○ Malaysia | ○ Senegal |
| ○ Antarctica | ○ Estonia | ○ Maldives | ○ Serbia |
| ○ Antigua and Barbuda | ○ Eswatini | ○ Mali | ○ Seychelles |
| ○ Argentina | ○ Ethiopia | ○ Malta | ○ Sierra Leone |
| ○ Armenia | ○ Falkland Islands | ○ Marshall Islands | ○ Singapore |
| ○ Aruba | ○ Faroe Islands | ○ Martinique | ○ Sint Maarten |
| ○ Australia | ○ Fiji | ○ Mauritania | ○ Slovakia |
| ○ Austria | ○ Finland | ○ Mauritius | ○ Slovenia |
| ○ Azerbaijan | ○ France | ○ Mayotte | ○ Solomon Islands |
| ○ Bahamas | ○ French Guiana | ○ Mexico | ○ Somalia |
| ○ Bahrain | ○ French Polynesia | ○ Micronesia | ○ South Africa |
| ○ Bangladesh | ○ French Southern and Antarctic Lands | ○ Moldova | ○ South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands |
| ○ Barbados | ○ Gabon | ○ Monaco | ○ South Korea |
| ○ Belarus | ○ Georgia | ○ Mongolia | ○ South Sudan |
| ○ Belgium | ○ Germany | ○ Montenegro | ○ Spain |
| ○ Belize | ○ Ghana | ○ Montserrat | ○ Sri Lanka |
| ○ Benin | ○ Gibraltar | ○ Morocco | ○ Sudan |
| ○ Bermuda | ○ Greece | ○ Mozambique | ○ Suriname |
| ○ Bhutan | ○ Greenland | ○ Myanmar/Burma | ○ Svalbard and Jan Mayen |
| ○ Bolivia | ○ Grenada | ○ Namibia | ○ Sweden |
| ○ Bonaire Saint Eustatius and Saba | ○ Guadeloupe | ○ Nauru | ○ Switzerland |
| ○ Bosnia and Herzegovina | ○ Guam | ○ Nepal | ○ Syria |
| ○ Botswana | ○ Guatemala | ○ Netherlands | ○ Taiwan |

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| ☐ Bouvet Island | ☐ Guernsey | ☐ New Caledonia | ☐ Tajikistan |
| ☐ Brazil | ☐ Guinea | ☐ New Zealand | ☐ Tanzania |
| ☐ British Indian Ocean Territory | ☐ Guinea-Bissau | ☐ Nicaragua | ☐ Thailand |
| ☐ British Virgin Islands | ☐ Guyana | ☐ Niger | ☐ The Gambia |
| ☐ Brunei | ☐ Haiti | ☐ Nigeria | ☐ Timor-Leste |
| ☐ Bulgaria | ☐ Heard Island and McDonald Islands | ☐ Niue | ☐ Togo |
| ☐ Burkina Faso | ☐ Honduras | ☐ Norfolk Island | ☐ Tokelau |
| ☐ Burundi | ☐ Hong Kong | ☐ Northern Mariana Islands | ☐ Tonga |
| ☐ Cambodia | ☐ Hungary | ☐ North Korea | ☐ Trinidad and Tobago |
| ☐ Cameroon | ☐ Iceland | ☐ North Macedonia | ☐ Tunisia |
| ☐ Canada | ☐ India | ☐ Norway | ☐ Türkiye |
| ☐ Cape Verde | ☐ Indonesia | ☐ Oman | ☐ Turkmenistan |
| ☐ Cayman Islands | ☐ Iran | ☐ Pakistan | ☐ Turks and Caicos Islands |
| ☐ Central African Republic | ☐ Iraq | ☐ Palau | ☐ Tuvalu |
| ☐ Chad | ☒ Ireland | ☐ Palestine | ☐ Uganda |
| ☐ Chile | ☐ Isle of Man | ☐ Panama | ☐ Ukraine |
| ☐ China | ☐ Israel | ☐ Papua New Guinea | ☐ United Arab Emirates |
| ☐ Christmas Island | ☐ Italy | ☐ Paraguay | ☐ United Kingdom |
| ☐ Clipperton | ☐ Jamaica | ☐ Peru | ☐ United States |
| ☐ Cocos (Keeling) Islands | ☐ Japan | ☐ Philippines | ☐ United States Minor Outlying Islands |
| ☐ Colombia | ☐ Jersey | ☐ Pitcairn Islands | ☐ Uruguay |
| ☐ Comoros | ☐ Jordan | ☐ Poland | ☐ US Virgin Islands |
| ☐ Congo | ☐ Kazakhstan | ☐ Portugal | ☐ Uzbekistan |
| ☐ Cook Islands | ☐ Kenya | ☐ Puerto Rico | ☐ Vanuatu |
| ☐ Costa Rica | ☐ Kiribati | ☐ Qatar | ☐ Vatican City |

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| ☐ Côte d'Ivoire | ☐ Kosovo | ☐ Réunion | ☐ Venezuela |
| ☐ Croatia | ☐ Kuwait | ☐ Romania | ☐ Vietnam |
| ☐ Cuba | ☐ Kyrgyzstan | ☐ Russia | ☐ Wallis and Futuna |
| ☐ Curaçao | ☐ Laos | ☐ Rwanda | ☐ Western Sahara |
| ☐ Cyprus | ☐ Latvia | ☐ Saint Barthélemy | ☐ Yemen |
| ☐ Czechia | ☐ Lebanon | ☐ Saint Helena | ☐ Zambia |
| | | Ascension and Tristan da Cunha | |
| ☐ Democratic Republic of the Congo | ☐ Lesotho | ☐ Saint Kitts and Nevis | ☐ Zimbabwe |
| ☐ Denmark | ☐ Liberia | ☐ Saint Lucia | |

The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. **For the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association', 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published.** Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

* Contribution publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

☐ Anonymous

Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

☒ Public

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

☒ I agree with the [personal data protection provisions](#)

*What is your relation with the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)?

- ☐ I am a beneficiary
- ☐ I applied for CEF funding
- ☐ I am a public administration and deal with CEF projects (including on technical assistance)
- ☐ I am from the financial sector and deal with CEF projects
- ☐ I am an association/NGO for which CEF is relevant
- ☐ I am doing research in the field of CEF
- ☐ I have a personal interest in CEF
- ☐ I have no relation with CEF
- ☒ Other (Please specify)

Please specify 'Other'

May apply in the future

*On which sector(s) of the Connecting Europe Facility do you want to give feedback?

Minimum 1 selection(s)

- ☐ CEF Transport
- ☒ CEF Energy
- ☐ CEF Telecom/Digital

Relevance

* **For CEF Energy:**

1. In the past 10 years since the creation of CEF, to what extent was EU financial support needed to complement investments at national level for better inter-connecting the European energy network?

- ☒ To a large extent
- ☐ To a moderate extent
- ☐ To no extent at all
- ☐ I don't know

*** For CEF Energy:**

2. Today, to what extent is EU financial support still needed to complement investments at national level for better inter-connecting the European energy networks?

- ☒ To a large extent
- ☐ To a moderate extent
- ☐ To no extent at all
- ☐ I don't know

For CEF Energy:

3. In your opinion, how necessary have been investments of CEF in these specific areas?

	To a large extent	To a moderate extent	To no extent at all	I don't know
* Completion of projects of common interest (located in EU Member States) part of the TEN-E network	☒	☐	☐	☐
* Development of Electricity grids	☒	☐	☐	☐
* Development of Hydrogen networks	☐	☒	☐	☐
* Development of Smart Electricity Grids	☒	☐	☐	☐
* Development of Smart Gas Grids	☐	☐	☒	☐
* Development of CO2 networks	☐	☒	☐	☐
* Cross-border cooperation in the field of renewable energy	☒	☐	☐	☐
* Completion of projects of mutual interest (located both in the EU Member States and a Third Country) part of the TEN-E network	☒	☐	☐	☐
Other (please use text box to explain)	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please explain your choices:

In case you have observations on the need for investment in above-mentioned areas that only relate to the funding period 2014-2021 (CEF1) or only to funding period 2021-2027 (CEF2) you may add them here:

Effectiveness

For CEF Energy:

4. Since the creation of the CEF instrument in 2014, how would you qualify the progress made on the ground in relation to CEF's sectoral objectives below?

	To a large extent	To a moderate extent	To no extent at all	I don't know
* Support infrastructure for interconnectivity and cross-border energy	☐	☒	☐	☐
* Support infrastructure for developing market integration	☐	☒	☐	☐
* Support infrastructure for ensuring security of supply	☐	☒	☐	☐
* Support infrastructure for decarbonisation of the energy system and for the integration of renewable energy in the grid	☐	☒	☐	☐
* Support cross-border cooperation in the field of renewable energy	☐	☐	☒	☐
* Support infrastructure for developing smart energy networks	☐	☐	☒	☐

In case you have observations on progress made in above-mentioned areas that only relate to the funding period 2014-2021 (CEF1) or only to funding period 2021-2027 (CEF2) you may add them here:

For CEF Energy:

5. In your opinion, to what extent do the following features of CEF help deliver tangible outcomes?

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	To a large extent	To a moderate extent	To no extent at all	I don't know
* Fixed budget per sector (transport, energy and telecommunications/digital) throughout the seven-year period of the Multiannual Financial Framework	☒	☐	☐	☐
* "Use it or lose it" principle (in case of delays in the project's implementation, the grant is reduced accordingly and the budget made available in another call for proposals)	☒	☐	☐	☐
* Eligibility requirement that actions applying for funding relate to projects with the status Projects of Common and Mutual Interest under the TEN-E Regulation (PCI and PMI Status)	☒	☐	☐	☐
* Competitive calls for obtaining PCI status and then for the PCIs to receive funding from CEF-Energy	☒	☐	☐	☐
* Competitive calls for proposals for CEF	☒	☐	☐	☐
* Frequency of calls for proposals	☒	☐	☐	☐
* Selection of projects proposed by the Commission and endorsed by Member States in the CEF Committee	☐	☒	☐	☐
* Stable Multiannual Work Programme	☐	☒	☐	☐
* Implementation of the programme by the executive agency INEA/CINEA	☐	☒	☐	☐
* Funding of projects and studies through non-repayable grants	☒	☐	☐	☐
* Combining non-repayable grants with repayable instruments such as loans, guarantees and equity	☐	☒	☐	☐
* Providing technical assistance to help prepare and deliver projects	☒	☐	☐	☐

Please explain your choices:

6. In your opinion, to what extent are the following features of CEF useful for addressing unforeseen challenges (e.g. delays due to Covid, energy crisis or connectivity problems for Ukraine/Moldova due to Russia's war of aggression)?

	To a large extent	To a moderate extent	To no extent at all	I don't know
* Competitive calls for proposals and selection of projects proposed by the Commission	☒	☐	☐	☐

* Adaptation of sectoral work programmes	☒	☐	☐	☐
* Possibility to adapt grant agreements together with the executive agency	☐	☒	☐	☐
* Buy-in of Member States during the CEF Committee voting	☐	☒	☐	☐
* Association of Ukraine and Moldova to the CEF programme in 2023 enabling those countries to submit their own project proposals and be part of the joint proposals together with a Member State	☒	☐	☐	☐
* Openness to third country participation (if indispensable for the project on the Member State territory)	☒	☐	☐	☐
* Legal base giving sufficient flexibilities for instance for front-/backloading budget and transfers between sectors	☒	☐	☐	☐
Other (please use text box to explain)	☐	☐	☐	☐

Efficiency

For CEF Energy:

8. To what extent do you see potential space for simplification and streamlining in the following areas of CEF?

	To a large extent	To a moderate extent	To no extent at all	I don't know
* Application process and eligibility requirements for the CEF Projects of Common Interest call	☐	☐	☐	☒
* Application process and eligibility requirements for obtaining cross-border renewable energy project status	☐	☐	☐	☒
* Calculation of costs	☐	☐	☐	☒
* Reporting obligations	☐	☐	☐	☒
* Payments	☐	☐	☐	☒
* Digital tools (e.g. eGrants)	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other (please use text box to explain)	☐	☐	☐	☒

Please explain 'Other'

Please explain your choices and add concrete examples if possible:

In case you have observations on simplification/streamlining in above- mentioned areas that only relate to the funding period 2014-2021 (CEF1) or only to funding period 2021-2027 (CEF2) you may add them here:

9. Do you have other suggestions on how to improve the efficiency and/or decrease the administrative burden for applicants and beneficiaries of the CEF programme?

*** For CEF Energy:**

11. In the previous and current MFF, CEF provided several instruments to combine its funds with private financing from the European Investment Bank (EIB) and national promotional/commercial banks, e.g. CEF Debt Instrument (CEF 2014-2020). In your opinion, how difficult was it to access CEF funding via these initiatives?

- ☐ Very difficult
- ☐ Somewhat difficult
- ☐ Not difficult
- ☒ I don't know

Please explain your choices and if possible, add examples for the instruments you know about:

In case you have observations on leveraging private funds that only relate to the funding period 2014-2021 (CEF1) or only to funding period 2021-2027 (CEF2) you may add them here:

For CEF Energy:

12. Below are some potential challenges for the implementation of CEF. In your opinion, how significant would you say they are?

	Very significant	Somewhat significant	Not significant	I don't know
* Lack of awareness of the CEF instrument	☐	☐	☒	☐
* Lack of administrative capacity to identify/propose /implement projects	☒	☐	☐	☐
* Predetermined allocation of funds in work programmes and per priority	☐	☒	☐	☐
* Frequency and duration of calls for proposals	☐	☐	☐	☒
* Application and selection process managed by the executive agencies (INEA/CINEA/HaDEA)	☐	☒	☐	☐
* Amount of available EU budget	☒	☐	☐	☐
* Low EU co-funding rates	☐	☒	☐	☐
* Lack of available budget for national co-funding from national public sources/from beneficiaries	☒	☐	☐	☐
* Combining funds from multiple sources for projects	☒	☐	☐	☐
* Involvement/investment from the private sector	☐	☒	☐	☐
* Obstacles relating to the granting of permits	☒	☐	☐	☐

* Obstacles in delivering complex (cross-border) infrastructures on time	☒	☐	☐	☐
* Obstacles in creating/exploiting synergies between the three CEF sectors	☐	☐	☒	☐
* Obstacles in reflecting changes in the technological development	☒	☐	☐	☐
* Creation of market distortions	☐	☐	☒	☐
* Administrative burden	☐	☒	☐	☐
Other (please use text box to explain)	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please explain your choices and add concrete examples if possible:

Please explain if you see any material differences between the funding period 2014-2020 (CEF1) and funding period 2021-2027 (CEF2):

Coherence

* 13. The aim of CEF is to provide a common funding instrument for the trans-European networks mentioned under Article 170 TFEU. In your opinion, was it a good approach to combine the transport, energy and telecom/digital sectors under a common funding instrument?

- ☐ A good approach
- ☒ A slightly good approach
- ☐ Not a good approach
- ☐ I don't know

* 14. In your opinion, to what extent are the synergies between the three CEF sectors exploited (e.g. charging/refuelling infrastructure for alternative fuels, 5G along trans-European transport corridors)?

- ☐ To a large extent
- ☒ To a moderate extent
- ☐ To no extent at all
- ☐ I don't know

Please explain your choices and add concrete examples or suggestions of synergies between the three CEF sectors:

In case you have observations on synergies between the three CEF sectors that only relate to the funding period 2014-2021 (CEF1) or only to funding period 2021-2027 (CEF2) you may add them here:

For CEF Energy:

15. In addition to CEF, several other EU programmes are financing the development and deployment of infrastructure. In your opinion, to what extent are the following EU funding instruments complementary to CEF?

	To a large extent	To a moderate extent	To no extent at all	I don't know
* European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	☐	☐	☐	☒
* Cohesion Fund	☐	☒	☐	☐
* European Fund for Strategic Investments / InvestEU	☐	☒	☐	☐
* Horizon 2020 / Horizon Europe	☐	☐	☒	☐
* Recovery and Resilience Facility (CEF 2021-2027)	☐	☒	☐	☐
* Innovation Fund	☐	☐	☒	☐
* LIFE	☐	☐	☒	☐

16. Where do you see overlaps or gaps between CEF and the above-mentioned EU funding instruments?

In case you have observations on complementarity/overlaps/gaps between CEF and other EU funding instruments that only relate to the funding period 2014-2021 (CEF1) or only to funding period 2021-2027 (CEF2) you may add them here:

*** For CEF Energy:**

17. CEF aims to fund projects with high EU added value that improve connections between Member States. In view of this, to what extent did projects supported by CEF Energy complement Member States' national investments in energy infrastructure?

- ☒ To a large extent
- ☐ To a moderate extent
- ☐ To no extent at all
- ☐ I don't know

Please explain your choices and add concrete examples if possible:

18. Do you have any other feedback on the CEF instrument that you would like to share?

For CEF 2014-2020:

For CEF 2021-2027:

19. Please upload your position paper

Only files of the type pdf,txt,doc,docx,odt,rtf are allowed

Contact

MOVE-B2-CEF@ec.europa.eu