



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

MEMO

Bridging the investment gap in transport

Results of the 2019 Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Transport call for proposals

Brussels, 27 September 2019

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 and projects that remove bottlenecks or bridge missing links in various sections of the [Core Network](#) (composed of nine pan-European Corridors and including the most important connections, linking the most important nodes, and to be completed by 2030) and on the [Comprehensive Network](#) (covering all European regions and to be completed by 2050) as well as on 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.

Why do we need investment in transport infrastructure?

Transport faces a wide range of challenges across the EU: significant investment is still needed to complete the TEN-T Core Network; financing gaps remain in several areas; many bottlenecks still have to be removed; parts of the infrastructure need upgrading and modernisation; adequate project preparation and development of a project pipeline for a range of Member States is required; urban mobility remains challenging, and regulatory and administrative barriers should be removed. The European Commission's [Investment Plan for Europe](#) 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 2019 CEF Transport call

What is the 2019 CEF Transport call?

It is one of the regular CEF calls for proposals, which have been published by the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA) since 2014 to finance transport infrastructure projects in Europe. The call for proposals focused on reducing rail freight noise, completing cross-border sections and developing maritime ports on the TEN-T Comprehensive Network. Whereas previous calls focussed on the TEN-T Core Network, the Comprehensive Network was the special focus of this call giving a wider range of potential applicants an opportunity to benefit from CEF.

What are the objectives of 2019 CEF Transport call?

The call aimed to reduce the adverse impact of noise provoked by ageing brakes on railway freight wagons, improve the connectivity of regions through better cross-border railway links and upgraded key infrastructure in ports.

What types of projects can receive funding?

The 2019 CEF Transport call was open for project proposals addressing either works or studies, or a combination of both.

Who applied?

69 proposals were received by INEA, for a total of €247.5 million of requested co-funding by the call deadline of 24 April 2019. The applicants were mostly Member States and public or private undertakings.

What projects will get CEF funding under the 2019 call for proposals?

39 project proposals were selected for funding of €117 million.

Examples of projects to be financed include:

- Improving the cross-border railway line between Germany and the Netherlands (€12.7 million CEF co-funding)
- Improving the intermodal connections in the Finnish port of Oulu (€2 million CEF co-funding)
- Replacing the noisy brakes of railway freight wagons in France (€4.1 million CEF co-funding)

The European Commission's Innovation and Networks Executive Agency ([INEA](#)) will prepare and sign individual grant agreements with project beneficiaries at the latest by January 2020.

How will the projects be managed?

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

The Commission is assisted by INEA for the evaluation and selection of projects and for the overall technical and financial monitoring of project implementation.

Beneficiaries in the Member States manage the projects, and the Member States remain responsible for monitoring the implementation of the projects.

All projects co-funded by the CEF programme are available on [INEA website](#).