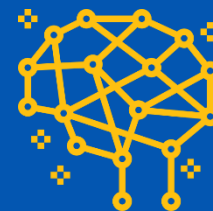




CEF Digital 2024 Call for Proposals - *Info Day*

12 November 2024, 9:30–13:00

Join at
Slido.com
#CEFDigital





Join at
Slido.com
#CEFDigital

Welcome

Sammy LAURITSEN, Deputy Head of Unit

CEF Digital - HaDEA

Table of contents

- Welcome
- CEF-Digital Policy Context
- 2024 call overview
- Priorities by topic
- Q&A

Break (around 11:15-11:30)

- Evaluation Process and Award Criteria
- Preparing a Successful Proposal
- Application process in eGrants
- Validation process
- Q&A
- Closing remarks

Join at
Slido.com
#CEFDigital



Join at
Slido.com
#CEFDigital



CEF-Digital Policy Context

*Franco ACCORDINO, Head of Unit
Investment in High-Capacity Networks
European Commission, DG CONNECT*

Join at
Slido.com
#CEFDigital



HaDEA – the European Health and Digital Executive Agency



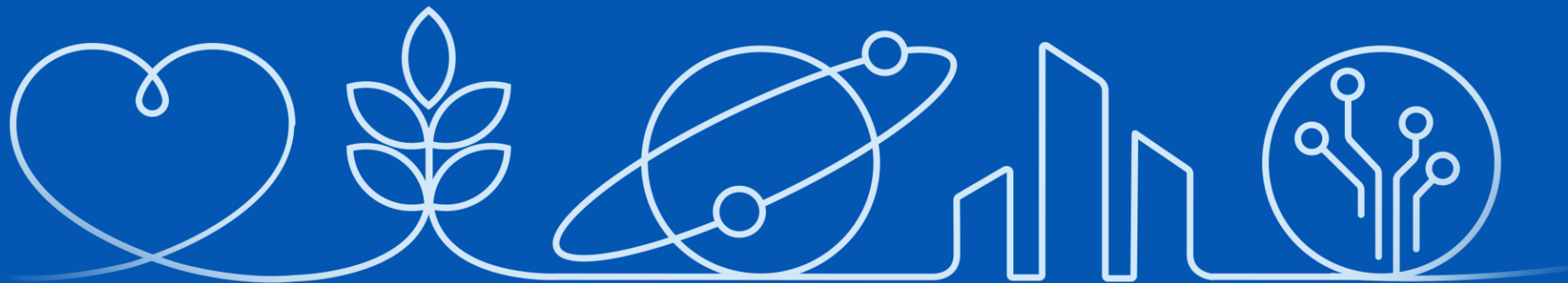
Hervé DUPUY, Head of Unit

CEF-Digital - HaDEA

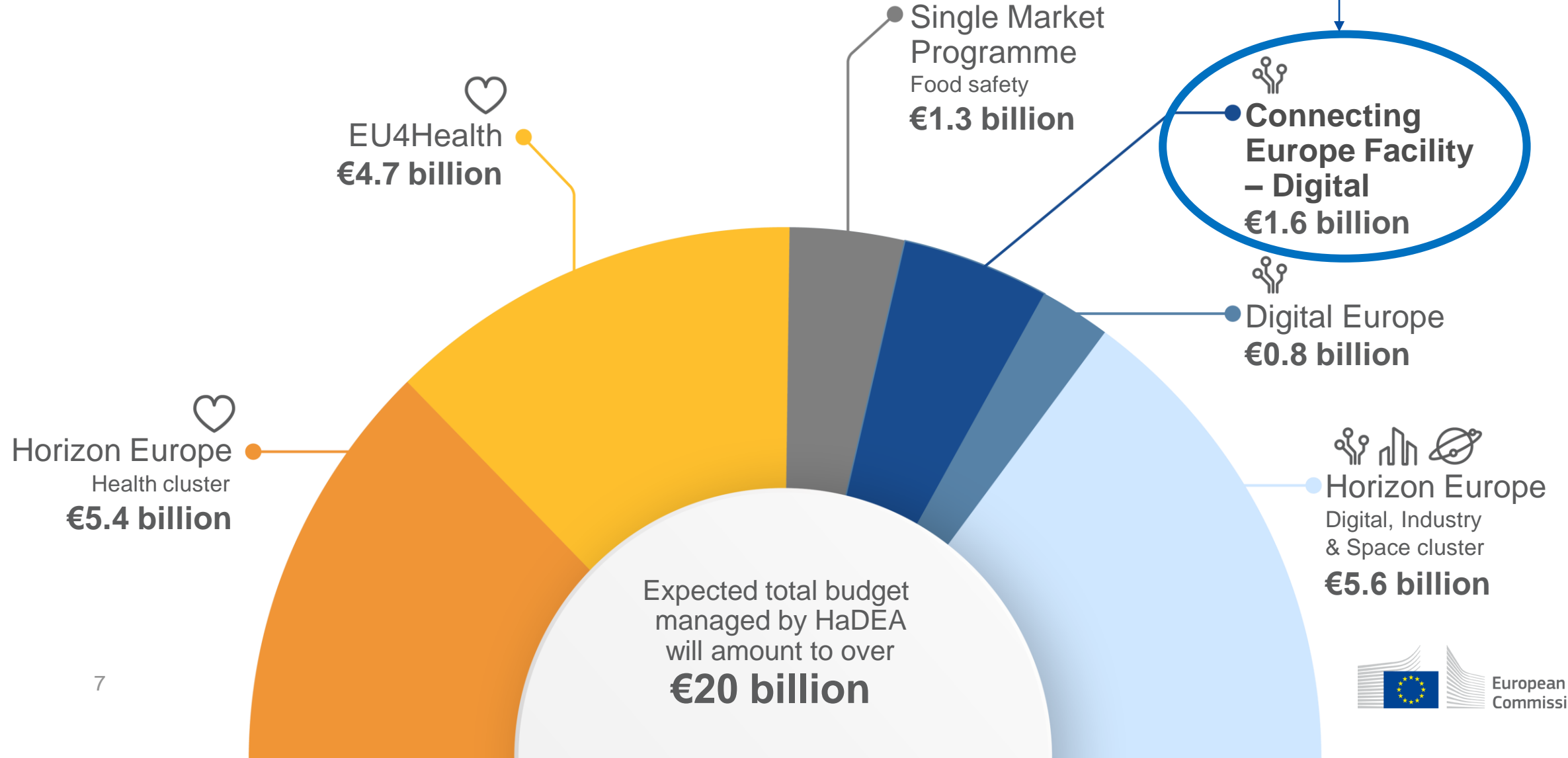
HaDEA – the European Health and Digital Executive Agency

“Boosting Europe by building, from earth to space, a healthy society, a digital economy and a competitive industry”

Programme sectors



HaDEA implements EU Programmes (2021-2027)



Overview of CEF-Digital calls 2024 (Call-4)

Calls	Topics	Budget (M EUR)
5G Large Scale Pilots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5G large scale pilots - 5G Coverage along Transport Corridors CEF-DIG-2024-5GLSP-CORRIDORS-WORKS 5G large scale pilots - 5G and Edge for Smart Communities CEF-DIG-2024-5GLSP-SMARTCOM-WORKS 	105 (52.5 + 52.5)
Backbone connectivity for Digital Global Gateways	CEF-DIG-2024-GATEWAYS-WORKS CEF-DIG-2024-GATEWAYS-STUDIES	128
EuroQCI	CEF-DIG-2024-EUROQCI-WORKS	90
TOTAL		323

Call 4: Timeline

Call opening	22 October 2024
Call Closing	13 February 2025 17:00 (CET)
Evaluation of proposals	March - May 2025
Information to applicants and launch of Grant Agreement Preparation	Summer 2025
Grant Agreement signature	Autumn 2025

Join at
Slido.com
#CEFDigital



Call Highlights per topic

Join at
Slido.com
#CEFDigital



Backbone connectivity for Digital Global Gateways



Georgios TSELENTIS
Investment in High-Capacity Networks
European Commission, DG CONNECT, Unit B5

*“We will build **Global Gateway** partnerships with countries around the world. We want investments in quality infrastructure, connecting goods, people and services around the world.”*

President European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen

State of the Union speech to the European Parliament, Strasbourg, 15 September 2021

[White Paper – How to Master Europe’s Digital Infrastructure Needs – underpinning the Connected Collaborative Network vision:](#)

- Digital Infrastructure as an Economic Foundation
- Addressing Connectivity Gaps and Market Disparities
- Security and Resilience of Infrastructure
- Supporting EU Digital Autonomy and Global Competitiveness
- Sustainability and Technological Neutrality



Connectivity Ambition



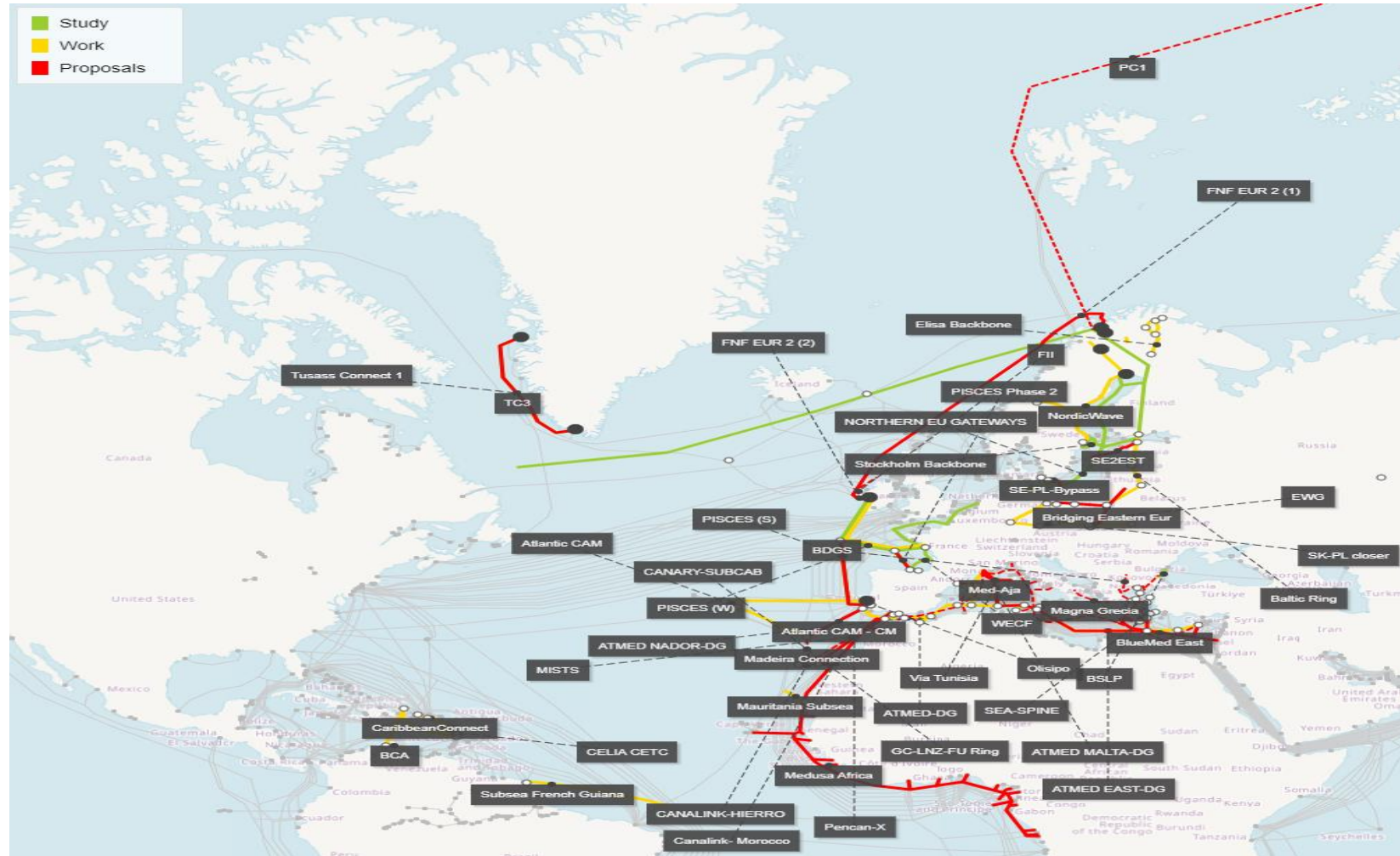
2025 Gigabit Society Objectives

- 100 Mbps to all households, upgradable to 1 Gbps
- 1 Gbps to all main socio-economic drivers (schools, businesses etc.)
- Uninterrupted 5G coverage in all urban areas and all major terrestrial transport paths

2030 Digital Compass Targets

- All European households will be covered by a Gigabit network
- All populated areas covered by 5G

Digital Global Gateways - CEF past Call Results*



* pending Call-3 projects signature finalisation

Backbone connectivity for Digital Global Gateways

CEF-DIG-2024-GATEWAYS-STUDIES & ...WORKS

Objective

Support the deployment of strategic networks as part of the Digital Global Gateway Strategy of the EU. CEF Digital will support the deployment of backbone networks addressing connectivity needs, such as:

- (1) Connecting all **territories** of the EU including its **Outermost Regions**.
- (2) Supporting the specific needs of Member States which are **islands** themselves or have islands as part of their territory.
- (3) Intermeshing **backbones** interconnecting major points of connectivity in the EU.
- (4) Addressing the specific needs of **Overseas Countries and Territories** in the EU.
- (5) Ensuring **international connectivity** to EU partners worldwide as a basis for European strategic autonomy.
- (6) Promoting **synergy** projects addressing other objectives of CEF Digital, including sector specific considerations encompassing the connectivity of large-scale digital capacities such as HPC or cloud.

Backbone connectivity for Digital Global Gateways

CEF-DIG-2024-GATEWAYS-STUDIES & ...WORKS

Technology neutral call

Digital Global Gateways can be provided with the technology best suited including e.g.:

- **Submarine Cable Systems,**
- **Satellite Infrastructure,**
- **Connectivity to internet exchange points,** and
- **Inter-Connection of Backbones**
with networks inside of the supported territories

What will be co-financed

- For **works**, total project costs required to construct and deliver the described networking solution for the foreseen system lifetime, from end to end, including cable landing station and connectivity towards them. Operating costs, and costs for the land ownership excluded.
- For **studies**, all preparatory work required prior to signing a contract with a supplier such as marine ground surveys for submarine cables, and the application for required permits.

Backbone connectivity for Digital Global Gateways

CEF-DIG-2024-GATEWAYS-STUDIES & ...WORKS

Expected Impact:

- **benefits go beyond** those directly related to supported projects
- contribute to bridging the **digital divide**,
- ensuring widespread access to **gigabit networks** for everybody in the EU and all businesses.

This connectivity infrastructure can cross-facilitate the implementation of other topics supported under CEF Digital, such as the

- take-up of 5G connectivity, High Performance Computing, etc.

Maximum Co-Funding Rates:

Works: 30%

Studies: 50%

Strong Cross-border Dimension: 50%

Outermost Regions: 70%

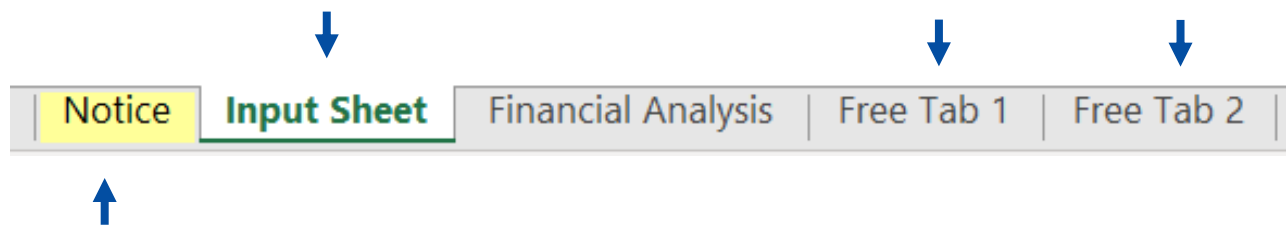


Business plan financial spreadsheet



CEF-DIG-2024-GATEWAYS-WORKS

- Its purpose is to help applicants demonstrate the market failure and assess the effect of the EU financial assistance.
- It is an admissibility condition only for proposals including Works.
- The Excel template is available in the Submission System and is password protected. Only the input cells/sheets can be modified. Two Free Tabs are available for intermediate calculations. All instructions are detailed in the “Notice” sheet



- The **Financial Discount rate** (net of inflation) is prefilled at 5%. If this hurdle rate is not adapted to the project at stake, it **can be modified but the new rate must be justified** (e.g. with a WACC calculation).

Backbone connectivity for Digital Global Gateways

CEF-DIG-2024-GATEWAYS-STUDIES & ...WORKS

Call 4:

- Open 22 Oct 2024
- **Deadline** 13 Feb 2025 1700 local time (UTC+1)
- Budget 128 MEUR combined for studies and works.
- **Maximum requested grant for works 20 MEUR, for studies 5 MEUR.**
- Exceptional cases up to 60 MEUR. To be justified by applicant (see section 6 eligibility in the call text)
- This is a competitive call.
- It needs to be **supported by the relevant Member State(s)**
- URL works
- URL studies

Join at
Slido.com
#CEFDigital



5G Large Scale Pilots

5G Coverage along Transport Corridors

5G and Edge Cloud for Smart Communities



Amalia LEBU

Investment in High-Capacity Networks

European Commission, DG CONNECT, Unit B5

- ❑ **White Paper** – How to Master Europe’s Digital Infrastructure Needs – underpinning the Connected Collaborative Network vision
- ❑ Supporting the **EU Digital Decade** policy targets: 5G in **all** populated areas, Gigabit connectivity to **all** households
- ❑ Fostering EU **competitiveness**: bundling connectivity with edge cloud to support innovative use-cases, stimulus to EU digital supply, new business models for telcos
- ❑ Contributing to EU digital **sovereignty**: 5G toolbox, EU controllership, trusted suppliers



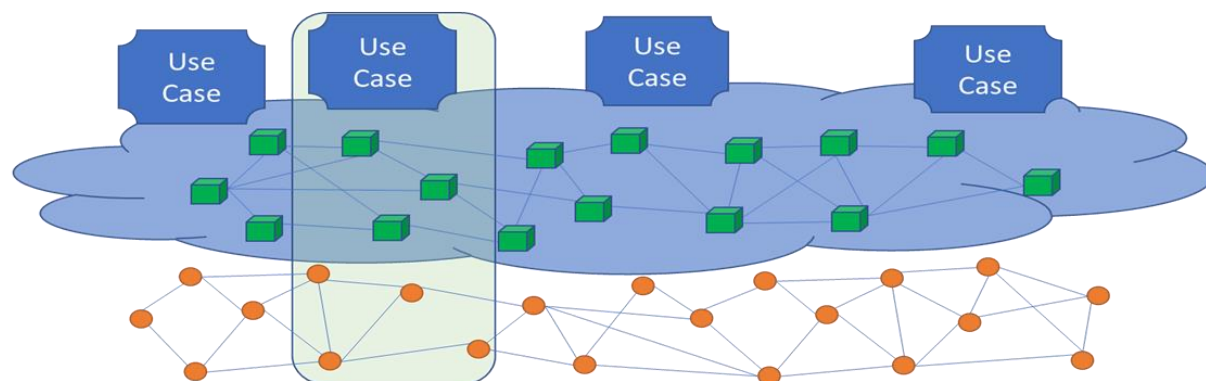
Deploying 5G standalone connectivity, underpinning the 3C Network ecosystem (Connected, Collaborative, Computing)



5G corridors



5G communities



Gigabit and 5G network deployment and take up via IoT/edge/cloud/data/AI Integration

Rationale

- Alignment with the “3C network” narrative of the White Paper
- Speed up the deployment and take-up of standalone 5G systems
- Integration of device, network, cloud and edge computing, and communication capabilities
- Demonstrate the benefits, in concrete use cases, of the evolution towards virtualised and cloud-native network functions and distributed telco edge cloud

Definition

The combined deployment and take-up of 5G standalone networks (5G SA)

- including their integration with **edge** computing capacities,
- that meet the requirements of innovative use cases in terms of very-high reliability, security, low latency, communication symmetry, and high throughput

5G SA connectivity and computing continuum to be deployed along major terrestrial transport routes

5G SA deployment to improve the connectivity used to support the activities of socio-economic drivers (SEDs)

Objectives

- Deploy large-scale 5G SA infrastructures that integrate connectivity and edge cloud capacities along the 3C Network value chain.
- Stimulate wider and faster deployment and take-up of 5G
- Demonstrate the benefits gained in specific application
- Leverage the 5G infrastructure
- Promote replicability and best practices

Scope

- Deployment of 5G SA infrastructure
- Relevant connectivity elements, required to implement innovative use-cases targeting either 5G corridors or 5G smart communities (e.g. edge capacity)

Join at
Slido.com
#CEFDigital



5GLSP

5G Coverage along Transport Corridors



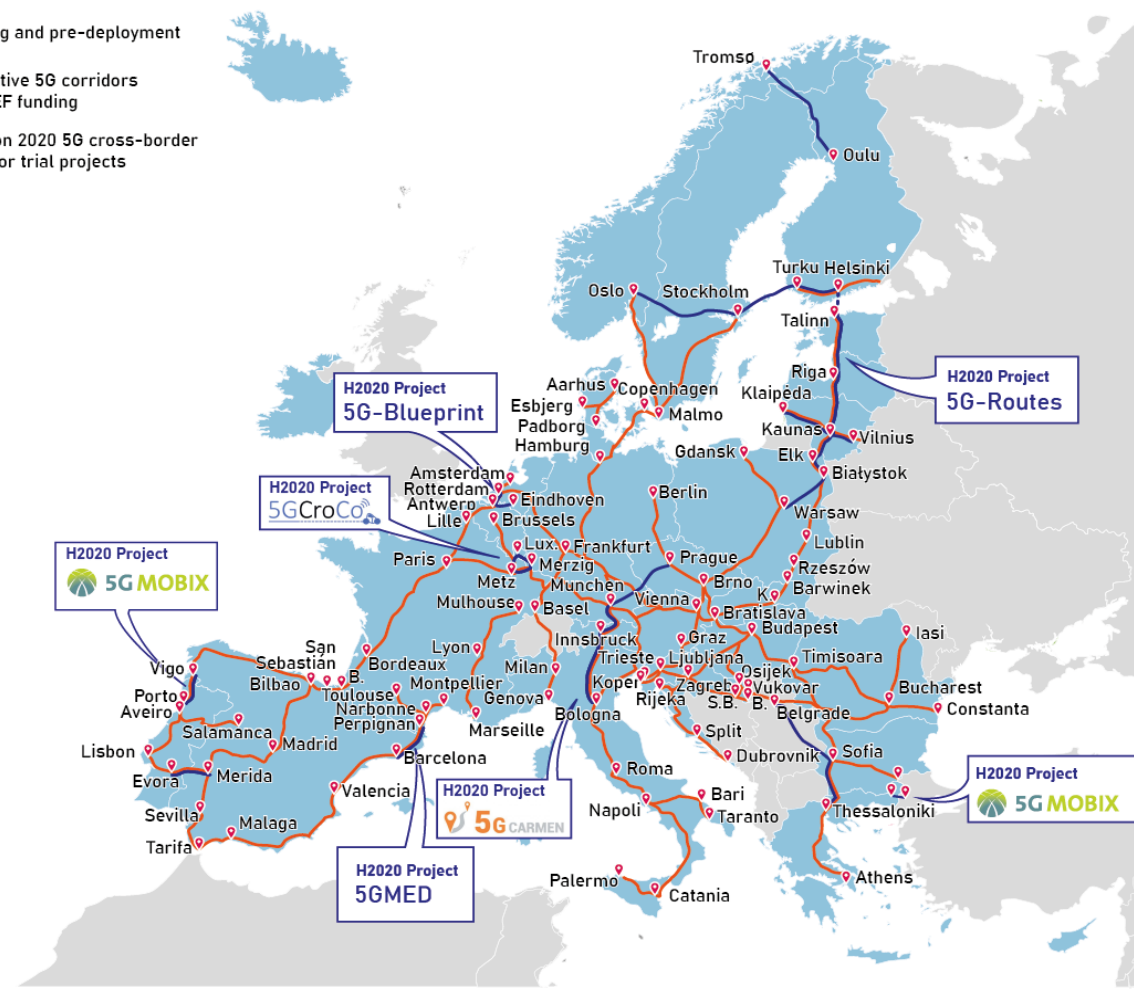
Bianca Jitea
Policy Officer, Future Connectivity Systems
European Commission, DG CONNECT, Unit E1

5G Corridors: a driving force behind the EU Green and Digital Transition



- Digital Decade: Pan-European deployment of 5G corridors along TEN-T network for road, rail, waterways
- Massive investments required for a fully-fledged TEN-T 5G corridor deployment > EUR 25-79 bn
- Lessons learnt from Horizon 2020 cross-border large-scale trials projects
- **Priority sections of TEN-T corridors identified in CEF Regulation: 26,000km in length, 49 intra-EU borders**
- CEF Digital WP1, budget spent: EUR 93MM (3 calls) 2021-23
- CEF Digital WP 2: EUR 205 million 2024-27 for 5G, adopted in October 2024 (Corridors & Smart Communities)
- Guidance coordinated by the SNS JU, based on 5G Strategic Deployment Agenda Road and Rail

- Testing and pre-deployment
- Indicative 5G corridors for CEF funding
- Horizon 2020 5G cross-border corridor trial projects



CEF-Digital Programme: 2021-27



Work Programme 1: 2021-23, € 682 MM budget was foreseen
Budget consumption based on Calls 1,2, 3 (Call 3 results still under grant agreement preparations)



5G for Transport Corridors
25 projects, € 93 million

5G & Edge Computing for Smart Communities

41 projects, € 126 million

Digital Global Gateways

51 projects, € 420 million

Quantum Communication Infrastructure

Call postponed to 2024

Operational Digital Platforms

Call in 2025

Support Actions

3 projects, € 7 million

Work Programme 2024-27: € 865 million

Note: Call 3 results are indicative and will only be official once Grant Agreement Preparations final, by 12/2024



Launched: Call 1&2 projects

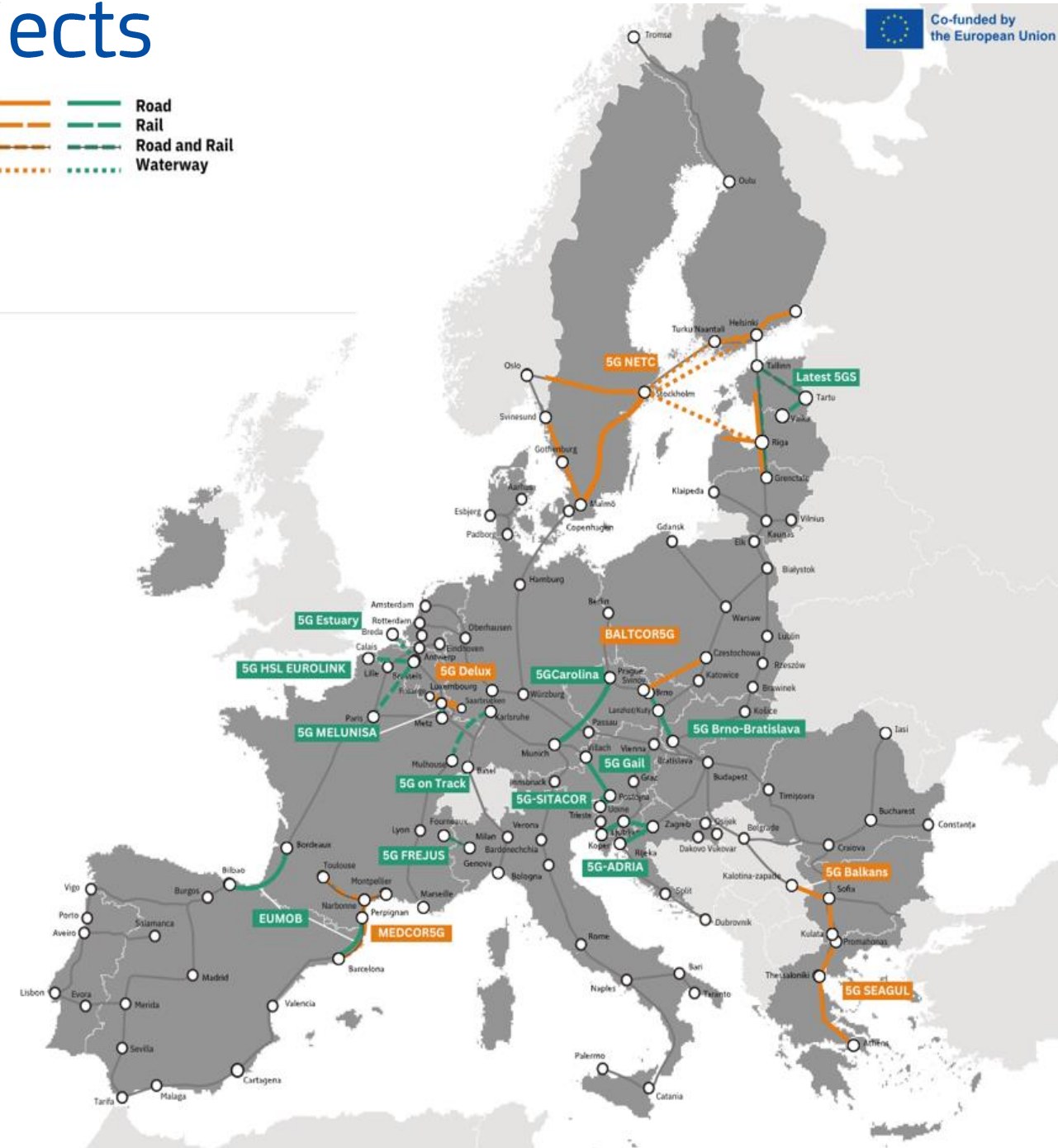
Study projects

Works projects



- 18 projects: 12 studies & 6 works
- a good mix of road, rail and maritime projects
- Predominance of studies over projects
- Different trends/business models are developing
- EU grants requested = € 42.3 M
- Total cost = € 99.6 M
- Length of deployed 5G corridors covered: 4252km
- Number of intra-EU borders covered: 19

Up to 50% co-funding

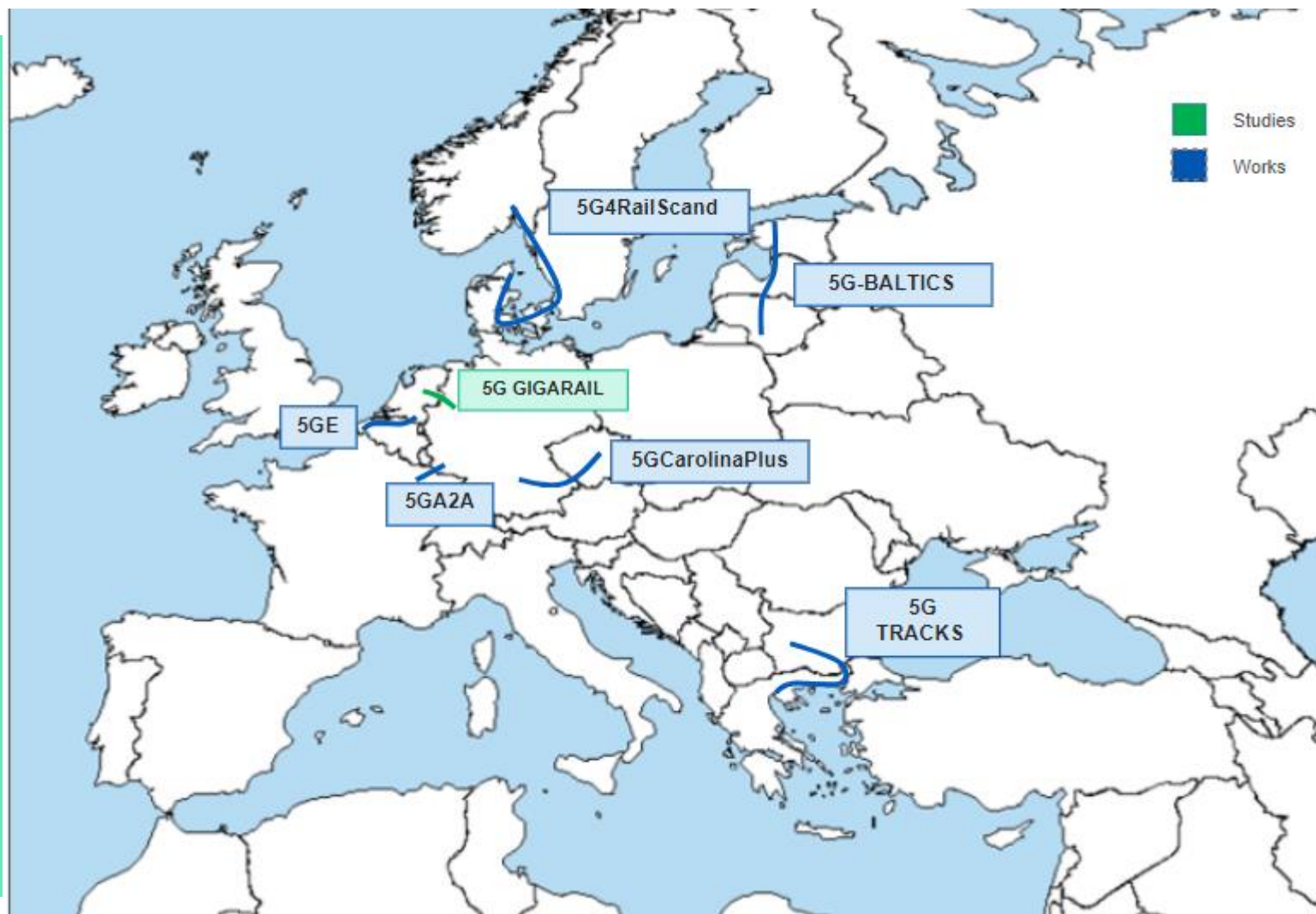


Ongoing: Call 3 proposals undergoing GAP

7 projects: 6 works, 1 study

- 4 Road projects (EU contribution **€ 28 million**)
- 2 Rail projects (EU contribution **€ 19 million**)
- 1 Waterway/Maritime project (EU contribution **€ 3.7 million**)
- Predominance of works projects
- Total EU contribution: **€ 51 million**

up to 50% co-funding



5G Corridors: Call 4 → focus on 5G LSPs

- Focus shift on to 5G Large Scale Pilots → **5G stand-alone integrated with edge computing facilities**
 - Alignment with the **Connected Collaborative Computing** narrative of the *White Paper on Europe's Digital Infrastructure**
- 5G Corridors and 5G Smart Communities regrouped under the 5G LSP umbrella, but separate topics
- Proposals for deployment works based on previous CEF-funded inception studies conducted as part of Calls 1 and 2
- New deployment work proposals based on preparatory work done outside of the CEF-Digital Work Programme

5G Corridors EU Grant: ~ 52.5 million € (estimated)

Up to 50% co-financing

Objectives



- ✓ **Leverage the needed private investment** to establish a full pan-European road and railway network of 5G corridors, with a focus on cross-border sections
- ✓ **Deploy 5G systems along transport paths** thus enabling Connected and Automated Mobility (CAM), including automated rail and waterway operations
- ✓ **Uninterrupted coverage** with 5G systems across all major European transport paths, following but not limited to TEN-T corridors (indicative list in Part V of CEF Regulation Annex)
- ✓ **Uninterrupted coverage** for: **CAM, FRMCS, RIS and multi-service application of 5G services**, including non-safety services
- ✓ Transport modes: **rail, road, inland waterways and/or a multimodal** combination thereof (example: smart logistics use cases in multimodal logistics platforms and ports, etc.)

Consortium Composition



- ✓ Minimum 2 applicants (beneficiaries, not affiliated entities) from at least 2 Member States or a Member State and an associated or third country
- ✓ Exception: minimum 2 applicants (beneficiaries, not affiliated entities) from at least one Member State - when there is no terrestrial border with another Member State - 5G corridor deployment projects crossing the border of a 3rd country or terminating at a port with maritime connections to other EU Member States

Possible Consortium Members



- ✓ 5G spectrum band owners / telecom operators
- ✓ Tower companies
- ✓ Public authorities / agencies in charge of traffic and infrastructure management
- ✓ Road operators
- ✓ Rail infrastructure managers
- ✓ Original equipment manufacturers
- ✓ Mobility service providers (such as innovative solutions providers for traffic management and intelligent transport systems)

Scope



Scope	Works
Cross-border (50% funding)	✓
Intra-national if insufficient mobile coverage for CAM or without 4G coverage (30% funding)	✓
Coexistence with ITS-G5, FRMCS and RIS - compatibility analysis	✓
Road, rail, inland waterways, multimodality (i.e., logistics)	
Installation of active network elements (routers, switches, antennae, MEC edge nodes, etc.)	✓
Installation of passive network elements (ducts, dark fiber, 5G radio stations, etc.)	✓
Installation of specific track side devices (sensors, cameras for traffic monitoring incl. roadside units)	✓
Studies for preparatory works, including network planning (50% funding)	<i>If necessary for the works deployment in the same proposal</i>
Location, length	✓ 15% TEN-T

Requirements



Requirements	Works
Security declarations	✓
Ownership Control Questionnaire	✓
Market failure declarations from the coordinator indicating no other 5G infrastructure present or credibly planned	✓
MNO declarations - beyond coverage obligations	✓
Other: please check carefully admissibility requirements!	

Join at
Slido.com
#CEFDigital



5GLSP

5G and Edge Cloud for Smart Communities



35

Amalia LEBU
Investment in High-Capacity Networks
European Commission, DG CONNECT, Unit B5

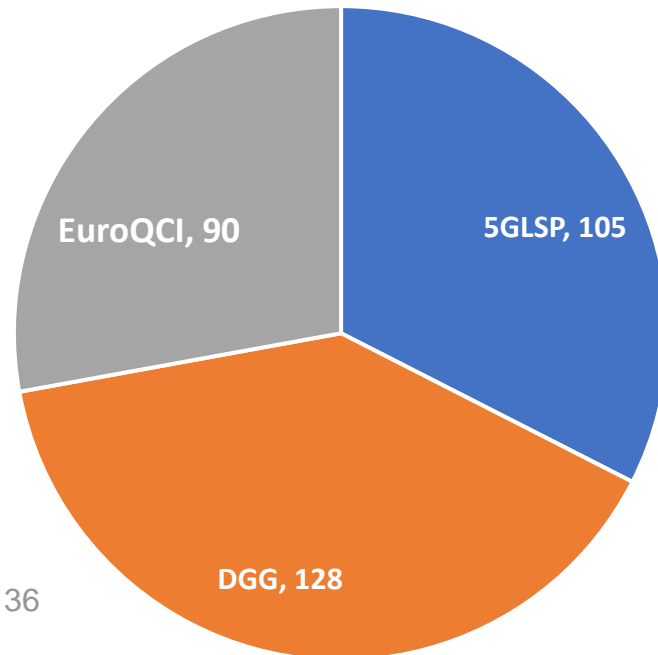
5G and Edge for Smart Communities

CEF-DIG-2024-5GLSP-SMARTCOM-WORKS: 5G large scale pilots
5G and Edge for Smart Communities – Works



Funding

- Call-4: **52.5 million euros**



Objectives

- Deployment of 5G and Edge infrastructure elements that enable innovative use-cases for **socio-economic drivers**
- **3C Network Alignment:** Contribute to the Connected Collaborative Computing (3C) Network by transitioning to virtualized and cloud-native infrastructure
- **Innovation Support:** Enable new operational models, social innovation, and business models within European vertical sectors



5GSC

- 17 Projects
- € 57.8 M grants
- Numerous use cases
- Wide EU coverage

[Project Directory](#)



5GSC

- 25 Projects
- € 81 M grants



- Facilitating an **online community** for stakeholders ([5GSC.EU](https://5gsc.eu))

5GSC Call-1 -2 -3 trends



- **From projects' portfolio**
 - Public Operators - Alternative Operators - Tower Companies
 - Public & Private 5G Networks (MPN)
 - **Edge Cloud** network integration (with EU-based cloud solutions)
 - Key benefits:
 - Densification: increase of the connected objects & devices
 - Reduced power consumption
 - Variety of IoT applications (port safety, city recycling, city traffic, precision agriculture)
 - Multiple verticals (health, education, energy, transport)
 - Positive impact in environmental transition and energy consumption

5G and Edge for Smart Communities

CEF-DIG-2024-5GLSP-SMARTCOM-WORKS: 5G large scale pilots
5G and Edge for Smart Communities – Works



CONSORTIUM COMPOSITION:

At least:

The owners of the funded 5G infrastructure:

an entity which deploys and operates mobile networks (“operator” or “MNO”) and provides connectivity services to the public or to specific clients (“private networks”) and

The providers of the use cases:

Public authorities or **SEDs** (socio-economic drivers)

5G and Edge for Smart Communities



Requirements

- ✓ • **Prerequisites:**
Proximity to an existing Gigabit backhaul network is essential
- ✓ • **5G Network Standards:**
Deployments must adhere to 5G Standalone (5G SA) network standards and bundle with edge cloud computing
- ✓ • **State-of-the-Art Infrastructure:**
Future-proof technology, e.g., IPv6 compatibility, is required to meet evolving digital needs.

- ✓ • Security declarations
- ✓ • **Ownership Control Questionnaire**
- Letters of support from the MSs
- ✓ • Declaration from the use-case that it is a public authority or SED
- ✓ • Declaration from the use-case that no 5G connectivity service ensuring sufficient performance and quality is available to them on the market
- ✓ • Other – see Call 4 - section 5 – Admissibility and documents

5G and Edge for Smart Communities

CEF-DIG-2024-5GLSP-SMARTCOM-WORKS: 5G large scale pilots
5G and Edge for Smart Communities – Works

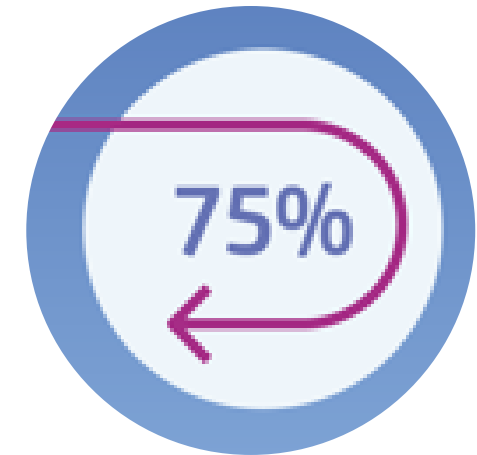


Scope - Eligible costs

- ✓ Passive and active connectivity elements, required to implement innovative use-cases (including edge-cloud)
- ✓ 5G radio equipment
- ✓ Backhaul, yet *not* the major focus (< about 10%)
- ✗ Individual applications, internet software services; end-user devices, connectivity subscriptions

For specific questions

HADEA-CEF-DIGITAL-CALLS@ec.europa.eu



- Reimbursing **up to 75%** of the infrastructure costs

5GSC Community Support Platform



- **Make sure to join the 5GSC Community Support Platform: 5GSC.eu**
- The platform is a networking & knowledge-exchange online platform where you can:
 - Meet like-minded stakeholders & project partners
 - Share good practices
 - Stay up to date with 5G events
 - Get information on call openings





Join at
Slido.com
#CEFDigital

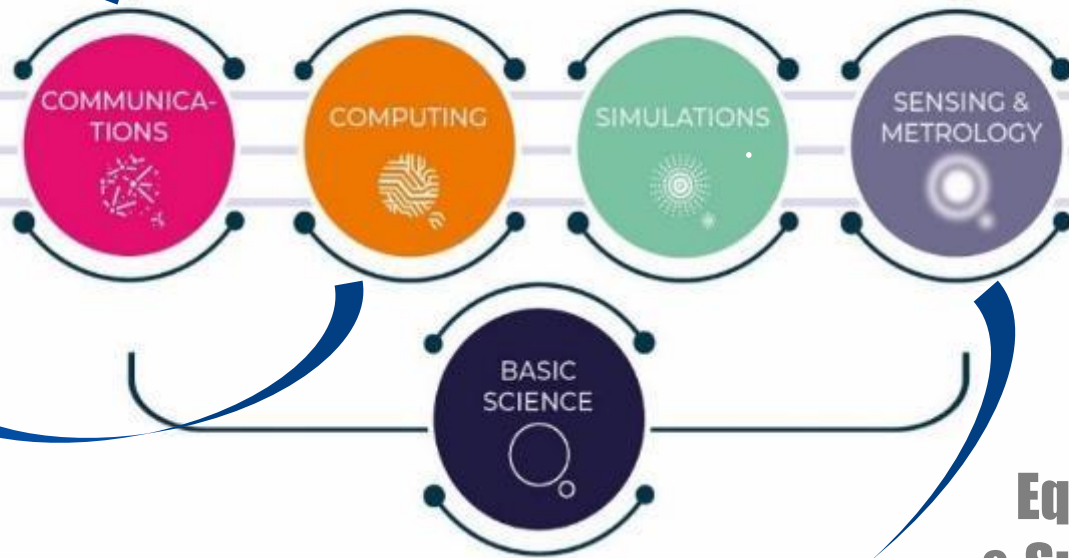
EuroQCI

Katie LOW
Emerging and Disruptive Technologies
European Commission, DG CONNECT, Unit C4

Strategic pillars of the EU quantum ecosystem



TECHNICAL PILLARS



Skills & Education



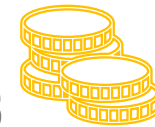
CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

- ENGINEERING /CONTROL
- EDUCATION/TRAINING
- SOFTWARE/THEORY



Chips Act
Quantum Chips

Equity Investments
& Support to Start-ups



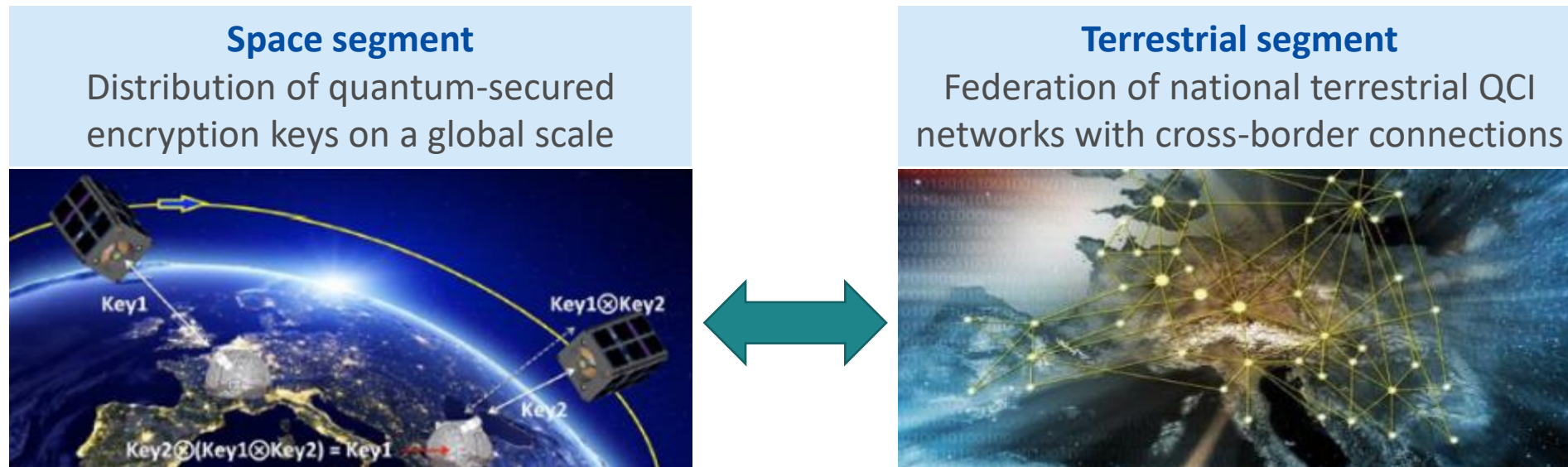
Sensing Infrastructures
Space Gravimetry

IRIS² & EuroQCI

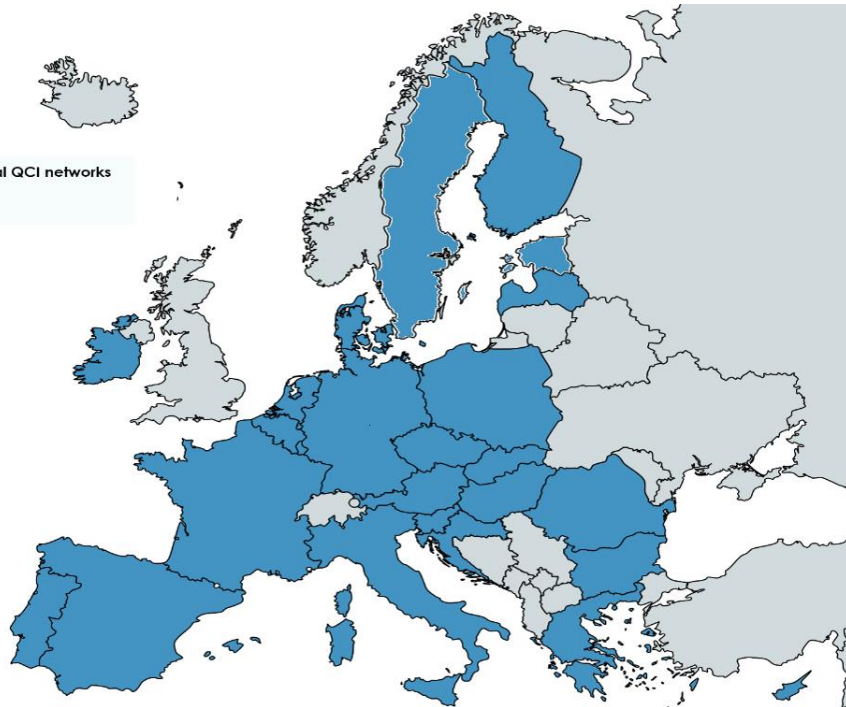


EuroQCI: overview

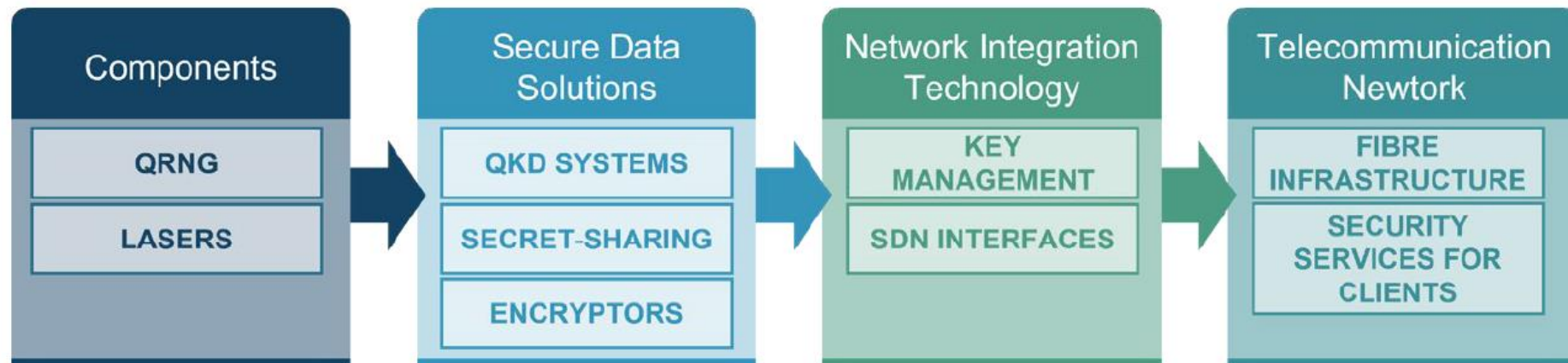
- Integrated satellite and terrestrial **system spanning the whole EU** for ultra-secure exchange of cryptographic keys (Quantum Key Distribution)
- Part of the EU Cybersecurity Strategy and **integrated into IRIS²**, the Union Secure Connectivity Programme (Regulation (EU) 2023/588)



EuroQCI terrestrial state of play



- **26 Member States deploying national QCI networks (2023-2025)**
 - Started on 1 January 2023, 30+ months
 - Initiate MS to QKD use, mature skills, test architecture, develop use cases, prepare for full deployment
- **6 industry projects maturing EU QCI technologies (2023-2025)**
 - QKD systems ready for integration into telecommunication networks
 - QKD modules (QRNG, optical component), key management software, encryptors. QKD protocols (CV-QKD and MDI-QKD)
- **Procurement of a European testing and evaluation infrastructure (2024-2028)**
- **Cross border & deployment of optical ground stations (to synchronise with Eagle 1) to start in 2026 - CEF call**



European Quantum Communication Infrastructure (EuroQCI)

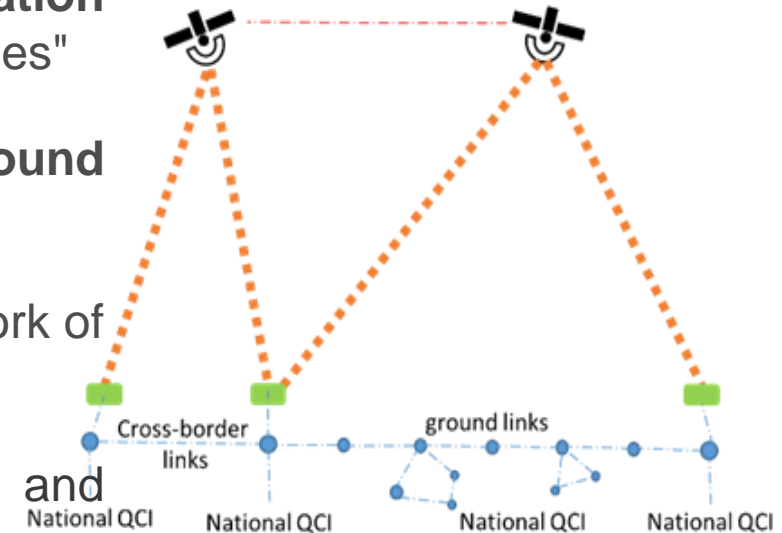
Deployment of the first **cross-border quantum terrestrial backbone networks for interconnecting neighbouring national quantum communication infrastructures**, including if necessary through the deployment of "trusted nodes"

- **interconnection with the EuroQCI's space segment, via optical ground stations**
- Where relevant, fibre links between the EuroQCI and a pan-European network of Security Operation Centres (SOCs)

This includes the actions needed to manage encryption keys efficiently and securely in an end-to-end manner and ensure their transmission to recipients.

Projects should normally be up to 42 months

Indicative grant amount: EUR 5 million, basic funding rate 30% but **50% for projects with strong cross-border dimension including the space segment**



EuroQCI – points to note

- Restriction to entities established, or deemed to be established, in Member States and directly or indirectly controlled by Member States or by nationals of Member States (Art. 11(4) of CEF Regulation): **ownership control assessment will be carried out** (no exceptions possible, e.g. via guarantees)
- Critical components for QKD should use EU technologies if available; the use of non-EU technologies **must be justified**
- No ‘durability’ requirement (maintenance of infrastructure for five years after end of project)
- CEF Regulation does not allow research to be financed (but studies eligible)
- Proposals to undergo **security scrutiny** (identify security concerns and use of classified information, propose mitigation measures if necessary)
- Access to necessary information via call document:
 - Specifications related to OGS and ground equipment for connecting with Eagle 1
 - Specifications necessary for OGS compatibility with SAGA

Join at
Slido.com
#CEFDigital



Questions & Answers

Break

Back at 11h30

*Please fill in the short feedback survey
in the streaming page!*

Agenda

- Welcome
- Priorities of the Call (topics)
- Q&A

Break

- Evaluation process and Award Criteria
- Preparing a successful proposal
- The application process in eGrants
- Validation process
- Q&A
- Closing remarks

Join at
Slido.com
#CEFDigital



Evaluation Process and Award Criteria

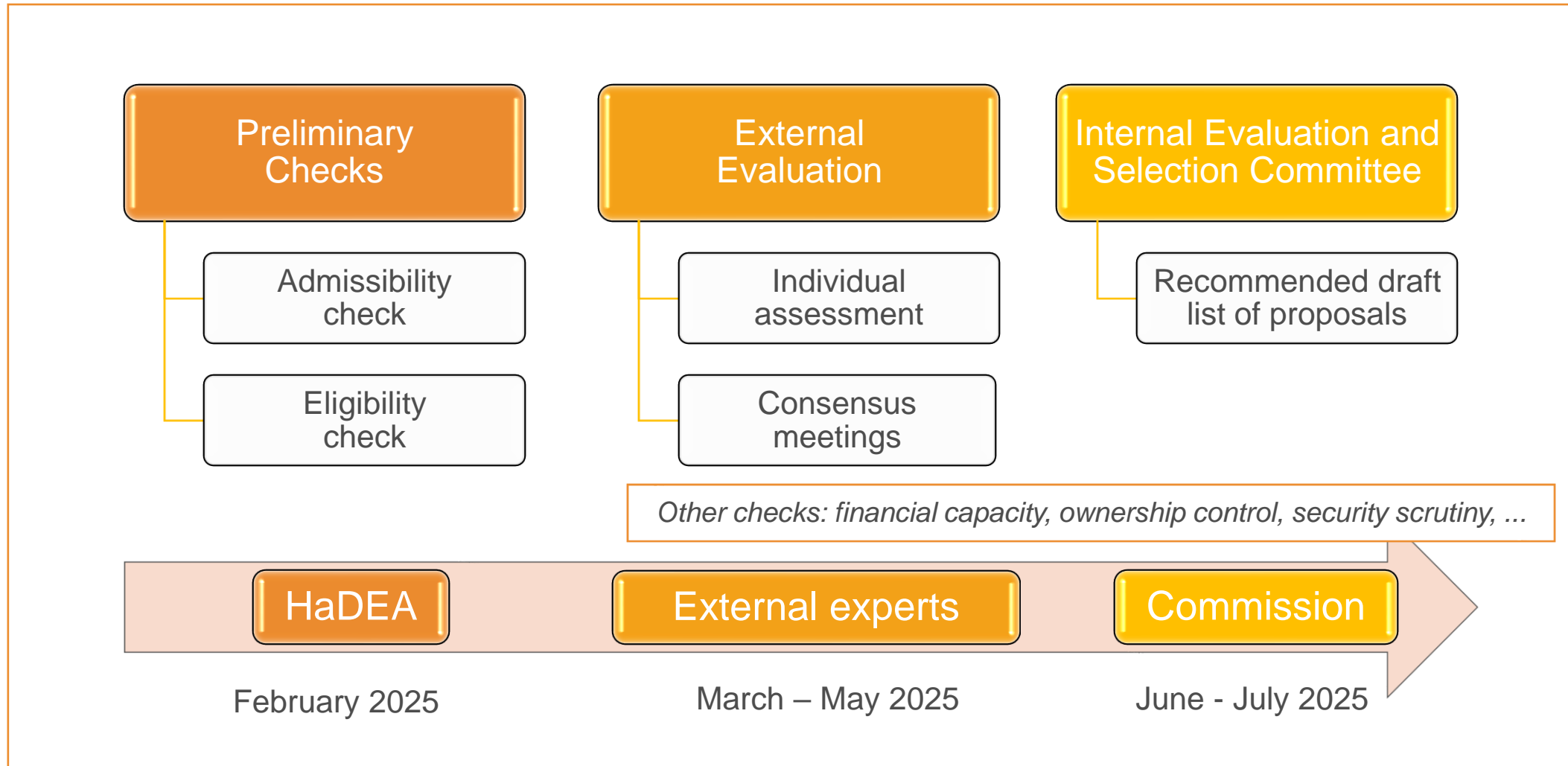
Karina Marcus
Project Adviser
HaDEA.B1
Connecting Europe Facility Digital

Join at
Slido.com
#CEFDigital



Evaluation process

Principles for the evaluation and selection process



Experts' tasks and role

Understand call text and procedure

- Read briefing material
- Follow briefings

Evaluate individually

- (minimum) 3 experts per proposal + digital security expert
- Draft individual assessment
- No contact between experts

Reach a consensus

- Discuss comments and scores with other experts
- Prepare a consensus report for each proposal

Final Selection Process (June - July 2025)

Preparation of Selection Decision

EC Inter-Service Consultation

Consultation of CEF Programme Committee

Information to Applicants / Launch Grant Agreement Preparation
Adoption of Commission Selection Decision

Join at
Slido.com
#CEFDigital



Admissibility and Eligibility

Admissibility

- Proposals must be submitted before the call deadline **13 February 2025, 17:00 CET (Brussels time)**
- Proposals must be submitted electronically via the [Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System](#). Paper or e-mail submissions are NOT possible.
- Proposals must be complete, i.e. **include all documents and mandatory annexes**, using the templates provided in the Submission System.
- Proposals must be readable, accessible and printable.

Completeness of documents + Annexes

	For studies	For works
Application Form Part A — Structured data input online in the Submission System	✓	✓
Application Form Part B — Technical description of the project (Word document to be filled in and uploaded as pdf)	✓	✓
Part C additional project data and KPIs introduced online in the Submission System		✓
Detailed budget table per WP (Excel template to be filled in and annexed)	✓	✓
Timetable/Gantt chart	✓	✓
Agreement by the concerned Member State(s) benefitting from the project	✓	✓
Ownership control questionnaire (new for 5G topics!)	✓	✓
Security compliance declaration		✓
Activity reports of last year *	✓	✓
List of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years) *	✓	✓
Business plan/financial spreadsheet		✓ Only GATEWAYS
Other annexes	Check call text (section 5)	

* Not needed for public bodies, Member State organisations and international organisations.

Lessons learnt from admissibility checks in previous calls

- MS agreement not signed; **missing agreements from other concerned MS** (benefitting from the project; not only MS of applicant entities), required for both Works and Studies
- Missing parts in application form Part B – *check pdf file before uploading!*
- Part C (KPI information for Works proposals) incomplete/inconsistent with other parts of the application
- Inconsistencies in budget between Part A (online) and detailed budget table per WP
- Missing annexes which are mandatory as per call text (self-declarations, letters etc.), but the submission system “allows” submitting the proposal without them – *always check section 5 of the call text!*
- Incomplete information on security declarations – *templates available in 2024 calls*

Eligibility of the project

- The proposal is ‘in scope’: relates to the objectives, scope, and the types of activities that can be financed according to the call conditions.
- The proposed project activities take place in the eligible countries.

Eligibility of the participants

- Applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:
 - be legal entities (public or private bodies)
 - be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
 - EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories)
 - For some topics (e.g. 5G Corridors, Digital Global Gateways), entities from third countries can be exceptionally eligible if their participation is deemed essential for the implementation of the project of common interest.
- Other entities may participate in other consortium roles, such as affiliated entities, associated partners*, subcontractors, etc.
- **Minimum consortium composition** is required for several topics (see section 6 of call text)
- For EuroQCI: Strict exclusion of entities directly or indirectly controlled by non-EU countries or non-EU countries' entities

* Entities implementing project tasks but without the right to receive EU funding. Their tasks must be mentioned in the grant agreement and the consortium remains responsible for the proper implementation of these tasks.

EU Ownership and Control (except EuroQCI)

- Each entity will be assessed if it is directly or indirectly controlled by EU Member States or by nationals of an EU Member States
- In case the ownership control assessment (OCA) concludes that the entity established in the EU is **not controlled** by an EU Member State,
 - the entity will be notified of the outcome of the assessment and
 - the entity shall be eligible to participate under the condition that it provides a **security guarantee**, approved by the Member State of establishment, within 30 working days of the receipt of the notification or before 7 October 2025 (whichever is earliest).

Lessons learnt from eligibility checks in previous calls

- Applicants do not fulfil the minimum consortium composition (if required by call conditions)

Pay attention to the type of participants in the consortium! Affiliated entities and associated partners do not count towards minimum consortium composition.

***Affiliated entities:** entities with a legal or capital link to a beneficiary which participate in the project with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries, but do not sign the grant.*

***Associated partners:** partner organisations which participate in the project but without the right to get funding.*

- Proposal is 'out of scope' under the topic submitted

Financial & Operational Capacity

- Financial capacity:
 - Applicants must have stable and sufficient resources to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all these projects;
 - Financial capacity check will be carried out for all beneficiaries, except public bodies, international organisations or if the individual requested grant amount is \leq EUR 60 000. The result may lead to a request for a financial guarantee.
- Operational capacity:
 - Assessed together with the 'Quality' award criterion, on the basis of the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams;
 - Public bodies, Member State organisations and international organisations are exempted.

Join at
Slido.com
#CEFDigital



Award Criteria

Award criteria

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Priority and urgency	3	5
Maturity	3	5
Quality	3	5
Impact	3	5
Catalytic effect	3	5
Overall (pass) scores	15	25

Resolving ties

For proposals with the same score a priority order will be determined according to the following approach:

1. Score obtained under the 'Priority and urgency' criterion
2. Score obtained under the 'Maturity' criterion
3. Score obtained under the 'Catalytic effect' criterion
4. Score obtained under the 'Impact' criterion
5. Score obtained under the 'Quality' criterion

Priority and urgency of the Action

Evaluating correspondence of the proposal with the sectoral policy objectives and priorities, measuring its EU added-value and, where applicable, assessing the possible synergies with other sectors or CEF Digital topics and, where applicable, ensuring a geographical balance of the CEF Digital support in the respective area

- Demonstrate how the proposed Action will contribute to **sectoral policy objectives**.
- Explain to what extent **EU level action** will help to reach policy objectives more effectively and faster compared to exclusively national level action.
- **Synergies** with other CEF sectors, other CEF Digital topics or other EU programmes (Resilience and Recovery Facility (RRF), Digital Europe, Horizon Europe, etc.).

Maturity

Assessing the maturity of the action in the project development:

- i. the readiness/ability of the project to start and complete by the proposed dates
 - ii. the status and planning of the contracting procedures and the necessary permits
 - iii. information on the availability of the financial resources needed to complement the CEF investment
- **Preparatory steps** already completed or envisaged and confirmation that the project can be carried out without delay
 - Confirmation that the proposed **project is mature** enough to be financed under this call
 - **Procurement** procedures needed, contracts awarded and planned
 - **Financial viability** and commitments, explaining efforts to secure other sources of funding
 - Summary of the **public consultation**
 - Authorisations, approvals and **permits**

Quality

Evaluating the soundness of the implementation plan proposed (both from the technical and financial point of view), the architecture and design approach, the organisational structures put in place (or foreseen) for the implementation, the risk analysis, the control procedures and quality management and the communication strategy. When applicable, it will also assess the information related to the operations/maintenance strategy proposed for the completed project

- **Resources** needed (financial and human) to implement the project, evidence that the project is correctly sized
- **Organisational structure** and cooperation between applicants
- **Project management**, quality assurance and control procedures
- **Risk management** methods and procedures
- **Risk assessment**

Impact

Assessing, when applicable, the economic, social, competition and environmental impact, including the climate impact, and other relevant externalities. This criterion may be substantiated by a Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA). It will also assess, where applicable, the safety, security, cybersecurity of electronic communication networks, interoperability and accessibility aspects of the proposal, innovation and digitalisation, as well as its cross-border dimension, and contribution to network integration and territorial accessibility, including particular for Outermost Regions and islands. Moreover, it will assess potential complementarities with other public funding programmes

- Positive **externalities**, namely in terms of economic, social, competition and environmental impact, including the climate impact
- Safety, security, cybersecurity of telecommunication networks
- Interoperability and accessibility aspects of the proposal
- Innovation and digitalization
- **Cross-border dimension**, including area of impact, Member States concerned, cooperation between Member States and promoters

Catalytic effect

Evaluating the effect of the EU financial assistance on the realisation of the project, for instance by i) overcoming a financial gap generated by insufficient commercial viability and high upfront costs; or ii) increasing the capacity to mobilise differentiated investments sources and address the lack of market finance; or iii) improving the quality or the scope/size of the project; or iv) accelerating the overall investment plan

Demonstrate why the CEF grant makes a **positive difference** to the Action in terms of triggering, facilitating or accelerating its implementation

- Explain the difficulties in obtaining market finance and how the grant can help to overcome this shortage
- Will the CEF grant help to mobilise additional public and private sources of financing?
- Explain if the proposed investment is made in challenging areas where there is an indication of **market failure** and how this has been assessed

To note!



- Information provided under the different criteria must be **coherent and consistent** across the application
- The application should convincingly **demonstrate the need for EU funds**
- Important to check that all application form sections are **complete**, and all required **supporting documents** are submitted
- Proposals are limited to **maximum 120 pages (Part B)**. Any additional pages will be made invisible to the evaluators by the system. Supporting documents do not count towards page limit.
- All beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners must be registered in the [Participant Register](#) before submitting the application.

Join at
Slido.com
#CEFDigital



Evaluation results

Results of the evaluation

- All proposals will be informed about the evaluation result (**evaluation result letter**). Successful proposals will be invited for grant preparation; the other ones may be put on a reserve list or rejected.
- Proposals that are below the budget threshold (i.e. passed, but not ranked high enough to receive funding) will be awarded a **Seal of Excellence**.
- Invitation to grant preparation does NOT constitute a formal commitment for funding. We will still need to make various legal checks before grant award: legal entity validation, financial capacity, ownership control assessment, etc.
- If you believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, you can submit a complaint (following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter).

Grant preparation

- Grant preparation involves a dialogue in fine-tuning of technical and financial aspects, such as milestones, deliverables, etc., and implementation of recommendations from evaluation if applicable
- Grant Agreement provisions are defined in the Model Grant Agreement (MGA) and not-negotiable
- The Model Grant Agreement that will be used (and all other relevant templates and guidance documents) can be found on Portal Reference Documents

Join at
Slido.com
#CEFDigital



Preparing a successful proposal

Thanos KASKAMANIDIS
Project Adviser
HaDEA.B1
Connecting Europe Facility Digital

Funding & Tenders portal - Submission platform

Quick search

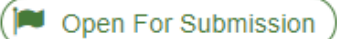
 ▾ ▾ ▾ ▾

Programme Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) (x)

5G large scale pilots – 5G coverage along Transport Corridors – Works

CEF-DIG-2024-5GLSP-CORRIDORS-WORKS | Call for proposal

Opening date: 22 October 2024 | Next deadline: 13 February 2025 | Single-stage

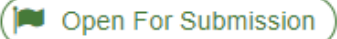
 Open For Submission

Programme: **Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)** | Type of action: **CEF Infrastructure Projects**

5G large scale pilots – 5G and Edge for Smart Communities – Works

CEF-DIG-2024-5GLSP-SMARTCOM-WORKS | Call for proposal

Opening date: 22 October 2024 | Next deadline: 13 February 2025 | Single-stage

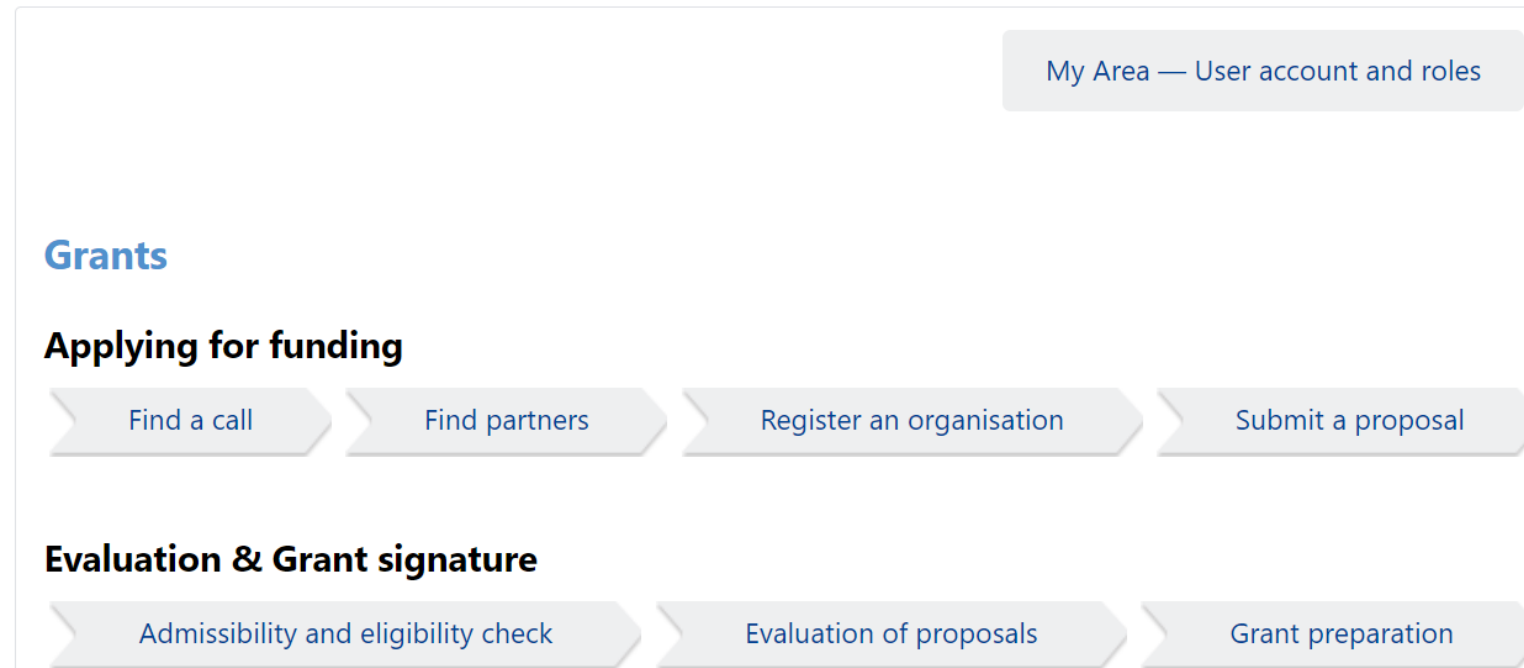
 Open For Submission

Programme: **Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)** | Type of action: **CEF Infrastructure Projects**

[Link to Funding and Tenders portal](#)

Funding & Tenders portal - Submission platform

Online Manual



[Link to the user guide](#)

Quality of proposal (I)

Who will read your application?

- External evaluators:
 - Their individual expertise may not cover the entire technical background of your proposed project
 - Will have several proposals to evaluate within a limited timeframe
- EC staff:
 - HaDEA: to check proposal's admissibility & eligibility
 - DG CNECT: an internal committee will recommend a draft list of selected proposals

Quality of proposal (II)

What is the reader looking for?

1. Simple language: avoid jargon and do not take any background knowledge for granted
2. Information easy to find: demonstrate how your proposal addresses the award criteria as indicated in the call text.

The evaluation of your proposal is based on the content you provide in the application form; be as specific and clear as possible.

No assumptions or requests for additional information will be made.

3. Mandatory annexes
4. Relevant maps, graphs, etc. (voluntary annexes)

Quality of proposal (III)

Project's Scope (1/2)

What

- What is the **project about**?
 - Ex: Inception Study, preparation of permitting documents, ...
- What are the **project's technical parameters**?
 - Ex: 5G coverage in km, length of submarine cable, data transfer rate between cloud nodes, ...

How

- How will the **project's objectives** be reached?
 - WPs, Tasks, Milestones, Deliverables, Resources

Quality of proposal (IV)

Project's Scope (2/2)

Who

- Who will carry out the project?
 - Ex: all tasks of the project will be carried out by internal and external resources.
 - Subcontracting per WP (Procurement aspects)

Why/Results

- What are the expected results of the project?
 - Ex: use-case supporting of schools, mobility enabled on a specific corridor, final procurement documents prepared, approval of permitting documents, etc.

Quality of proposal (V)

Work Packages

What

- A Work Package (WP) is a major subdivision of the project into Tasks
- What are the objectives of the WP?
 - Ex: commissioning of cable, preparing documentation
- Clear WP name matching its description.
 - Ex: Detailed Design and Tender Documents, Deployment of cable

Tasks, Deliverables and Milestones

- What are the **tasks** in the WP?
 - Ex: construction and acceptance tests of the facilities, supervision of the construction
- What are the **deliverables**?
 - Ex: analysis of the service requirements, report on the completed deployment works
- What are the **milestones**?
 - Ex: Selected service provider for deployment, 60% of the deployment of the cable completed

Quality of proposal (VI)

Milestones

Rules of thumb

1. Each work package should have at least 2 milestones START → END.
2. Work packages lasting >1 year, ideally at least one milestone every 12 months.
3. Means of verification should be reliable and realistic.

Ex: Written notification from the contractor, Contractor's progress report approved

Milestone No.	Milestone description	Milestone Summary	Due date	Means of verification
1				

Quality of proposal (VII)

Make sure that a "common thread" runs through your proposal combining objectives, WPs, resources and planning in a way that is coherent with achieving the stipulated deliverables

- Information in one part of the application matches the information in another.
 - Ex: supporting documents do not contradict the information in application form part B.
- Information is presented in a logical way.
 - Ex: administrative procedures are presented in chronological order in the WP table; basic study finalised before design study starts.
- Gantt chart is consistent with the WP dates, milestones etc.

Applicant's checklist (I)

- **Scope:** Does your proposal fit in the scope of the Work Programme and the call for proposals for which you are applying?
- **Proof-read your proposal**
 - *Do one last check to ensure that your proposal is clear and easy to follow and explain issues, including local context, that may be evident to you*
 - *External evaluators can only assess your proposal based on provided information – no assumptions will be made*
 - *Make sure that your proposal demonstrates the **added value** of CEF Digital funding*
- Make sure that you use the **application forms and templates** provided on the Submission System – the use of those forms is compulsory

Applicant's checklist (I)

Did you...

- ...encode all sections of application form **Part A** directly in the F&T platform?
- ...read through, complete, and upload application form **Part B**?
- ...complete **Part C** directly in the F&T platform (for works proposals)?
- ...attach all **mandatory annexes**:

see *section 5. Admissibility and documents* of the relevant call text

Applicant's checklist (I)

Did you...

- Contact external stakeholders (administrations, MS), as early as possible to get support letters, etc. in time
- Check the [National Contact Points \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)

- **DEADLINE 13 February 2025, 17:00 CET (Brussels time)**
 - *Complete your application sufficiently in advance to avoid any last-minute technical problems. **Don't leave submission to the last day!***



Join at
Slido.com
#CEFDigital

Budget

Budget per project

- Attention to the expected budget per project
see Project Budget under *section 6. Eligibility* of the relevant call text
- Provide a clear justification and breakdown of costs for each Work Package

NOTE: For lower or higher project budgets provide clear justification

Budget requirements for proposals

- I. Estimated budget breakdown per cost category

- II. Detailed budget table per work package

NOTE: I and II are mandatory to be encoded/submitted with each proposal

Budget requirements for proposals

I) Estimated budget breakdown per cost category (1/2)

- Structured financial information – encoded directly via the Funding & Tenders portal and per participant
- Five cost categories: A. Personnel, B. Subcontracting, C. Purchase, D. Other cost categories and E. Indirect costs
- In principle one funding rate per proposal, which could be increased (“top-up”) under certain conditions (see the specific call funding conditions).
- One exception for different funding rates in one proposal, if applicable: ‘D.4 works in outermost regions’, and “D.2 studies” (in a works proposal), with a respective fixed funding rate.

Budget requirements for proposals

I) Estimated budget breakdown per cost category (2/2)

- A. Personnel cost
- B. Subcontracting costs: contracts for goods, works or services that are **part of the action tasks**
- C. Purchase costs: contracts for **other type of goods, works or services** needed to carry out the action (e.g., equipment, consumables and supplies) but which are **not part of the action tasks and not subcontracted**

REMINDER: procurement rules and principles to be respected

IMPORTANT

'Financial support to third parties' and 'land purchases' are ineligible costs under CEF Digital – these columns should be left empty.

Indirect costs are not applicable under CEF Digital call (flat rate of 0%)

Costs of applications preparation are not eligible

Operational costs necessary for running the day-to-day operations. are not eligible

Budget requirements for proposals

II) Detailed budget table per work package

- Encoded in an Excel file available for [download](#) and to be uploaded after completion (unstructured financial information)
- Based on costs encoded per work package, per applicant (several applicants per work package are possible) and per reporting period
- Calculates the totals per work package and per applicant for each reporting period

Budget requirements for proposals (Excel file)

1.

START (BUDGET FORECAST PER WP)	
PROJECT DATA	
Project number:	
Project acronym:	

2.

Work package name	Funding Rate
WP name 1	0%
WP name 2	0%
WP name 3	0%
WP name 4	0%

3.

Participant name
Participant name1
Participant name2

4.

DETAILED BUDGET TABLE PER WP									
PROJECT DATA									
Project number:		0							
Project acronym:		0							
BUDGET BREAKDOWN PER WORK PACKAGE AND PARTICIPANT <i>Reporting period can be added/deleted as needed</i>									
Work Package	Participant	Reporting period 1	Reporting period 2	Reporting period 3	Reporting period 4	Reporting period 5	Total costs	Funding rate (for work package)	EU contribution
WP name 1	Participant name1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00
WP name 1	Participant name2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00
WP name 2	Participant name1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00
WP name 3	Participant name1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00
WP name 4	Participant name1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00
Total		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00

5.

#	EU CONTRIBUTION	TOTAL COSTS
ENCODE VALUE FROM EGRANTS	0	0
DIFFERENCE	0	0

Budget requirements for proposals

Budget planning and structure

- Total costs must match between the budget tables per cost category (structured) and per work package (unstructured financial information)
- In case of divergences the information in the Estimated Budget per Cost Category in the structured data will prevail
- Plan and prepare your accounting and reporting: any cost foreseen to be claimed for reimbursement in the future must be clearly attributable under both approaches (cost categories and work packages)

Contact us

Questions on the CEF-Digital calls should be sent to HADEA-CEF-DIGITAL-CALLS@ec.europa.eu

For IT/technical issues on the Portal Submission System, questions should be sent to [IT Helpdesk](#)

Take some time to fill in the short feedback survey in the streaming page!

Join at
Slido.com
#CEFDigital



The application process in eGrants

Karina Marcus
Project Adviser
HaDEA.B1
Connecting Europe Facility Digital

Join at
Slido.com
#CEFDigital



Getting started – Registering your organisation

Alina Ungureanu

REA – CVS





REA Central Validation Service

Legal Validation & Financial Capacity Assessment

CEF Digital Call 4 - Info Day

Alina UNGUREANU – REA CVS

Florin PUIU – REA CVS



Presentation Outline

REA Central Validation
Service (REA CVS)

Legal validation and Legal
entity appointed
representative (LEAR)

Communication

Financial capacity
assessment

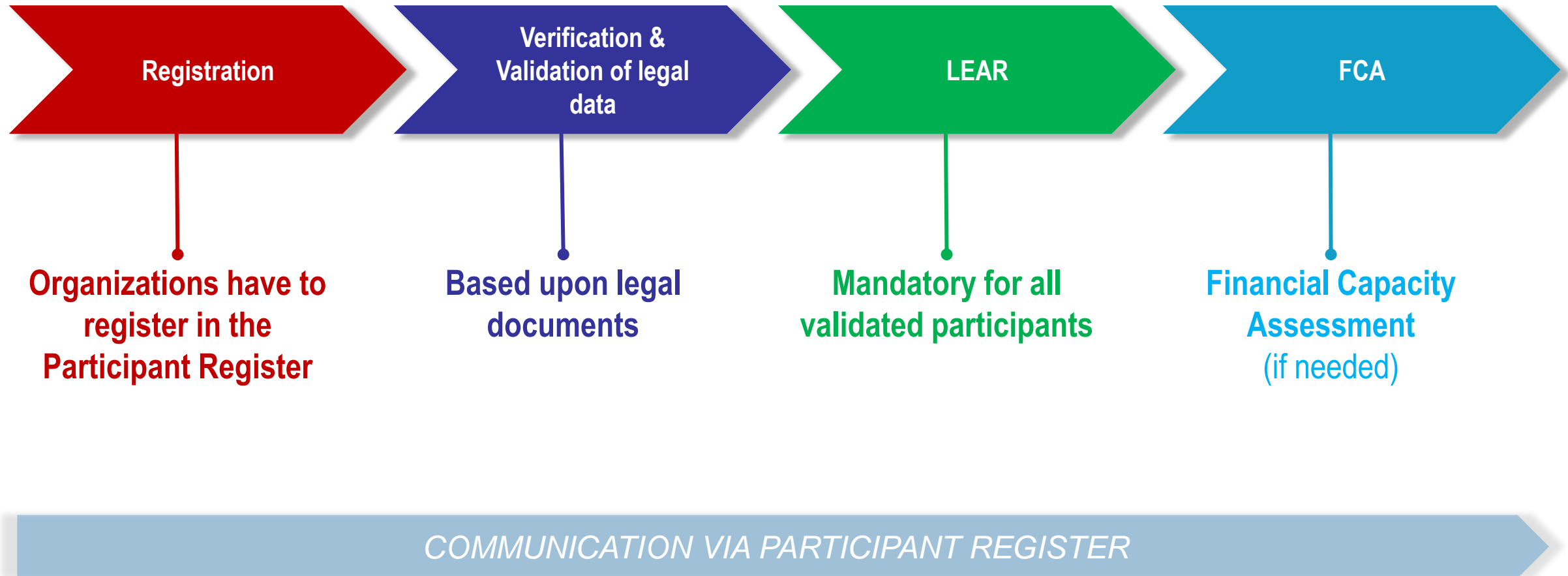
Guidance documents

REA Central Validation Service

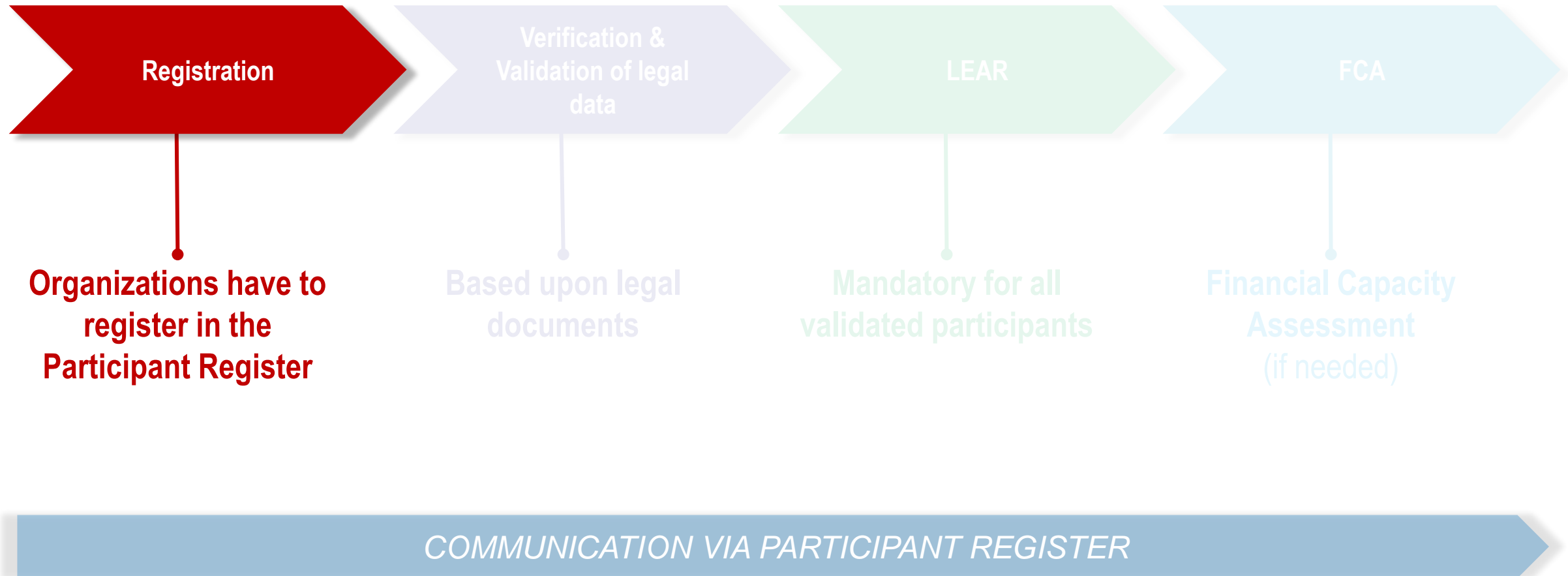
(REA CVS)

- Verifies **legal existence and legal statuses** of entities
- Validates the appointment of **Legal Entity Appointed Representatives (LEARs)**
- Validates **legal changes** of validated entities
- Assesses **universal takeovers (UTROs)** of validated entities
- Encodes **Bank Account requests**
- Prepares the **Financial Capacity Assessment**
- Performs **ownership control assessments** for specific programmes
- Performs ex-post status verifications (e.g. **SME & MID cap status checks**)

Validation Process Overview



Validation Process Overview



Registration of an organisation (at proposal stage)



European
Commission

EU Funding & Tenders Portal

[Home](#) [Funding](#) [Procurement](#) [Projects & results](#) [News & events](#) [Work as an expert](#) [Guidance & documents](#)

[Home](#) > [Funding](#) > [Participant Register](#)

Participant Register



The participant register is now multilingual! Select your preferred language from the top right corner of the Portal.

If you want to participate in a call for proposals or in a call for tenders with eSubmission, your organisation needs to be registered and have a 9-digit Participant Identification Code (PIC). Please quote your PIC in all correspondence with the Commission.

The register contains all participants of EU programmes.

Registration

Validation & Verification of
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

Registration of an organisation (at proposal stage)

Is your organisation already registered? PIC search


Please check whether your organisation has already been registered. If so, no need to register it again.

 Find a registered organisation

Register your organisation

To register your organisation or as a natural person, you need to login into the Portal or, if you are a new user, create your account.

Check what information you need to register in the Online Manual - and keep it to hand during the registration procedure. To start registration, click on the button below.

 Register your organisation

You can suspend the registration process at any time: the data entered can be saved as draft and you can continue your registration later. To return to your registration, please log in and get into My Organisation(s) in the My Area section. Incomplete, draft registrations are automatically deleted after one year.

Additionally, for actions where the SME status is an eligibility criterion (like, e.g. the EIC Accelerator) you must also carry out the SME self-assessment.

Should your project or tender be successfully evaluated, the registered data will be verified by the Central Validation Service team before the signature of the Grant Agreement or of the Framework Contract.

Registration

Validation & Verification of
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

How to register in the Participant Register

The screenshot shows the 'Participant Register' interface. At the top, there is a progress bar with six steps: 1. Identification (highlighted with a red location pin), 2. Organisation Data, 3. Legal Information, 4. Authorised Users, 5. Summary, and 6. Success. A 'Need help?' button is in the top right. Below the progress bar, the 'Identification' section contains the following fields:

- Legal name * (with an information icon) and a character count of 240.
- Registration country * (with an information icon) and a dropdown menu.
- Registration number (with an information icon) and a character count of 50.
- VAT number * (with an information icon) and a character count of 20. A toggle switch labeled 'not applicable' is next to it.

At the bottom of the form, there is a red 'Review the Form' button and a blue 'Next' button.

Registration completed

New Participant Identification Code (PIC) in a declared (non-valid) status

Identification

(e.g. Legal name, VAT number)

Organisation data

Legal information

Authorised users

(e.g. Name, e-mail address of the self-registrant and the back-up)

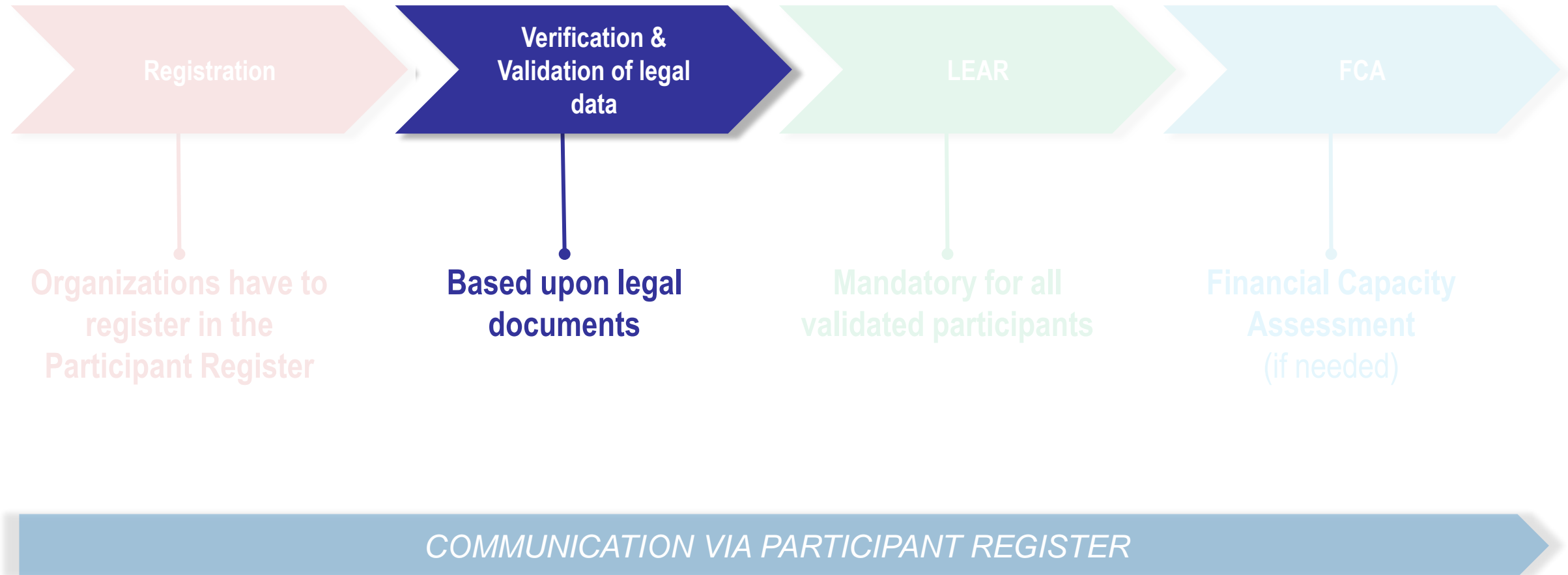
Registration

Validation & Verification of Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

Validation Process Overview



Legal validation

- Registration data is verified by REA Central Validation Service before the signature of the Grant Agreement or Contract
- The legal validation of a participant in the Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA) is done once, when the entity has to sign its first Grant Agreement or Contract
- It is reused for future participations in EU grant, procurement actions and contribution agreements

Registration

Validation & Verification of
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

Legal validation documents

- ✓ **Legal entity form** ([template](#) to be completed, dated, stamped and signed)
- ✓ **VAT extract** (< 1 year)
 - ✓ *If not registered for VAT – proof of VAT exemption*
- ✓ **Registration extract** (< 1 year) – for private law bodies
- ✓ **Law/decreed/decision** – for public law bodies
- ✓ **Treaty** – for international organisations
- ✓ **Statutes** – for non-profit organisations

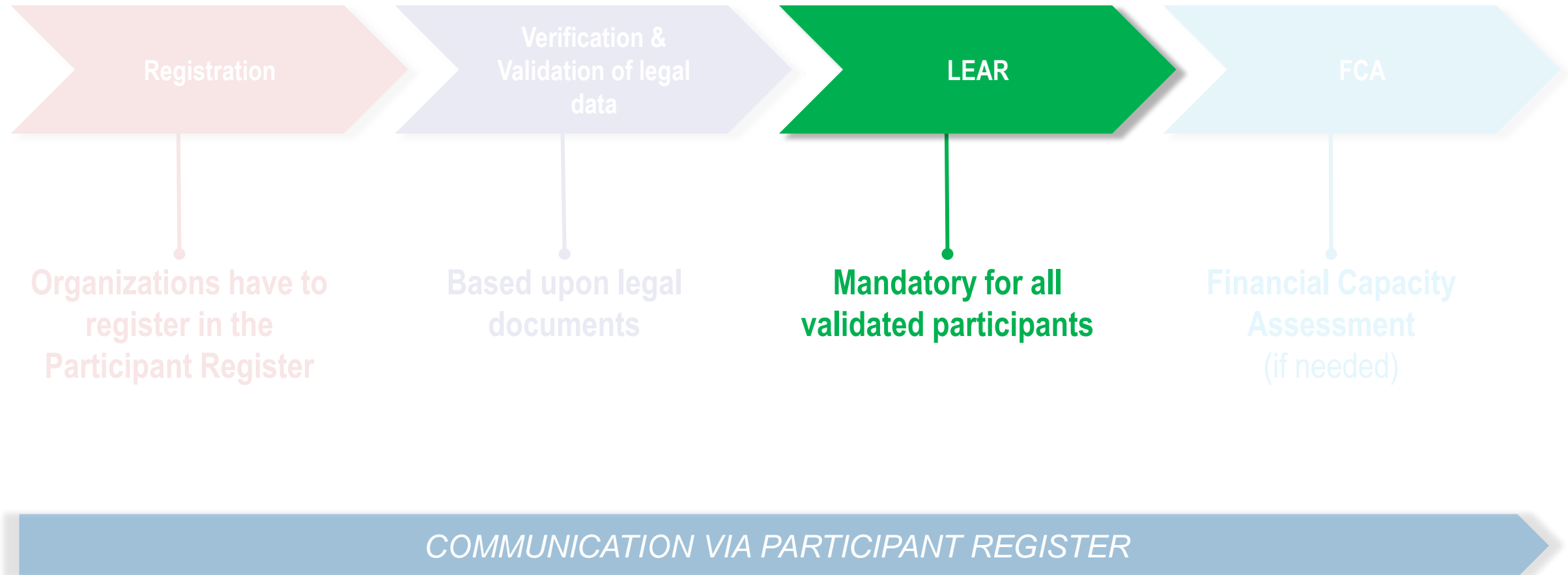
Registration

Validation & Verification of
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

Validation Process Overview



LEAR roles and duties

In the Single Electronic Data Interchange Area, the appointment of the Legal Entity Appointed Representative (LEAR) is mandatory.

The LEAR:

- Notifies the EU of changes in legal data/status
- Submits legal and financial documents if required
- Manages access rights of persons in the organisation (but *not* at the project level)
- Nominates 'Account Administrators' and individuals authorised to sign:
 - ✓ Contracts/grant agreements and their amendments (Legal signatories, i.e. **LSIGN**)
 - ✓ Financial statements (Financial signatories, i.e. **FSIGN**)

Registration

Validation & Verification of
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

LEAR appointment documents

1. LEAR appointment letter (including the declaration of consent to the EU Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions), duly completed, dated and signed by the legal representative and the LEAR
2. Official proof of identity (ID-card/ passport with photo and signature) of the legal representative and the LEAR
3. Valid official document to demonstrate that the legal representative has the authority to engage the organisation in its entirety

Scanned version of these documents shall be uploaded in the Participant Register.
Originals must be kept in the entity's premises.

Registration

Validation & Verification of
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

Communication

All communication is exclusively managed through the Participant Register

European Commission <EC-NO-REPLY-GRANT-MANAGEMENT@nomail.ec.europa.eu>

to me ▾

Europa / Funding & Tenders Portal notification

Dear User,

You have been granted the role of **Self Registrant** for the organisation arquicios.

In order to access your organisation data on the Funding & Tenders Portal/Supplier portal, you need to log in on the F&T Portal/Supplier Portal. If you did not have an EU Login yet, it was launched automatically for a separate e-mail with a hyperlink to finalise your account.

For more information on the Funding & Tenders Portal roles, please refer to the [Online Manual](#) if you participate in the [programmes managed on the Funding & Tenders Portal](#).

For more information on the roles for e-Procurement, please refer to the [e-Procurement wiki page](#), if you participate in a tender call.

With kind regards,
EU Single Electronic Data Interchange Area - F&T Portal team

This email has been auto-generated. Please do not reply to this account. Your email will not be read. For any inquiries please contact the Grants Procurement Systems Support +32 (2) 29 71063 or EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu.

Messages are notified via e-mail to the contact person (i.e. self-registrant or the appointed LEAR)

Access lost to a declared (non-valid) or valid PIC

Declared PIC

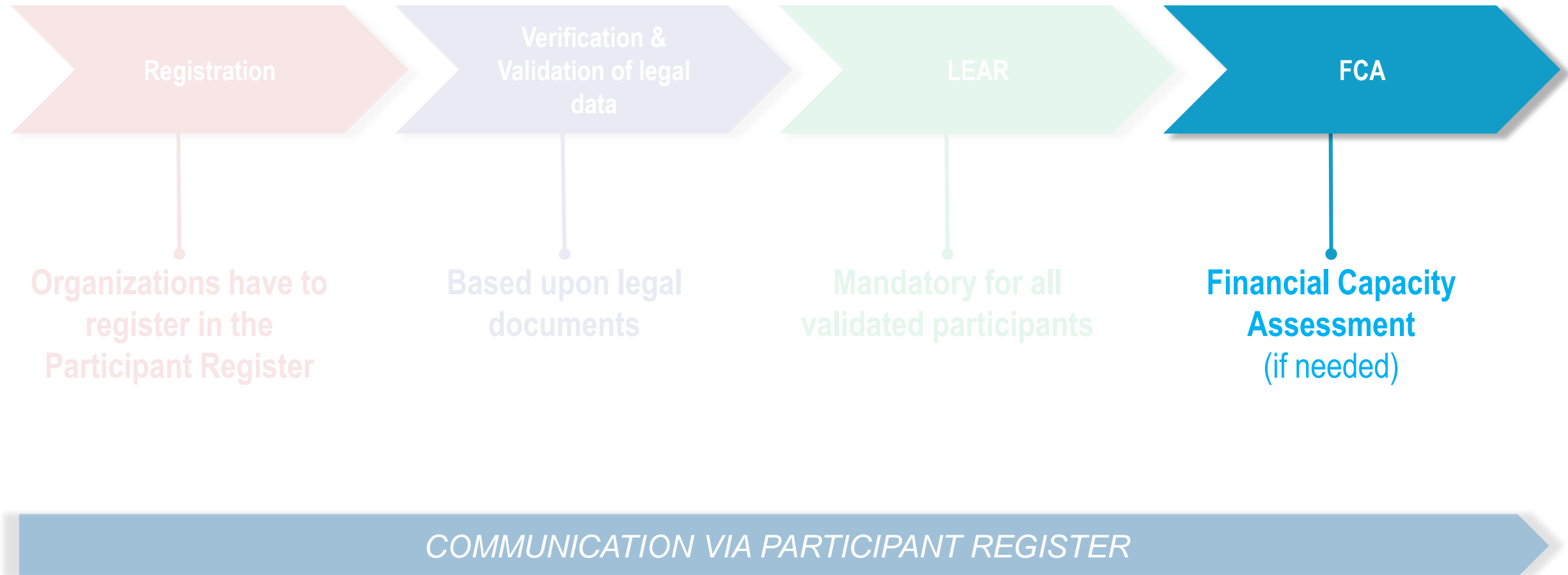
- In case the self-registrant left the organisation, and no one has access to a declared PIC – a new PIC needs to be created, and REA CVS informed

Valid PIC

- If the LEAR is not available anymore and there are no Account Administrators, a new LEAR needs to be appointed – LEAR recovery procedure

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/urf/lear-recovery/request/>

Validation Process Overview



Financial Capacity Assessment (FCA)

Legal basis



Financial Regulation (2024 /2509)
(articles 199 and 201)



Rules on Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment for EU Grants and Tenders.



Call for Proposals
("7. Financial & operational capacity and exclusion")

Registration

Validation & Verification of
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

Financial Capacity Assessment (FCA)

When is the FCA needed?

✓ **all beneficiaries**, except for:

public bodies (including local, regional or national authorities)

individual grant requests of **less than 60,000 EUR**

✓ **may be requested** for other beneficiaries/ affiliated entities

Registration

Validation & Verification of
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

FCA supporting documents

(via Participant Register)

✓ Balance sheet

Balance Sheet

- ASSETS
- LIABILITIES
- EQUITY

Registration

Validation & Verification of
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

FCA supporting documents

(via Participant Register)

✓ Balance sheet

✓ Profit and loss account

Balance Sheet

Profit & Loss
account

- REVENUES
 - EXPENSES
-
- Net result

Registration

Validation & Verification of
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

FCA supporting documents

(via Participant Register)

- ✓ Balance sheet
- ✓ Profit and loss account
- ✓ Explanatory notes and/or annexes (if available)

Balance Sheet

**Profit & Loss
account**

**Explanatory
notes**

**Annexes
to the FS**

Details on accounts

Breakdown on items

Additional explanations

Registration

Validation & Verification of
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

FCA supporting documents

(via Participant Register)

✓ Balance sheet

✓ Profit and loss account

✓ Explanatory notes and/or annexes (if available)

✓ Financial audit report

Financial Audit report

Opinion

- Unqualified
- Qualified
- Adverse
- Disclaimer

Balance Sheet

Profit & Loss account

Explanatory notes

Annexes to the FS

if the requested EU-contribution exceeds
EUR 750,000 (art. 196 FR)

Registration

Validation & Verification of
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

FCA supporting documents

(via Participant Register)

✓ Balance sheet

✓ Profit and loss account

✓ Explanatory notes and/or annexes (if available)

✓ Financial audit report

...or Self Declaration on the accounts

if the requested EU-contribution exceeds
EUR 750,000 (art. 196 FR)

**Financial
Audit report**

Opinion

- Unqualified
- Qualified
- Adverse
- Disclaimer

**Self Declaration
on the accounts**

I, the undersigned
declare that the
accounts are:

- VALID
- no audit required

Signed

Balance Sheet

**Profit & Loss
account**

**Explanatory
notes**

**Annexes
to the FS**

Registration

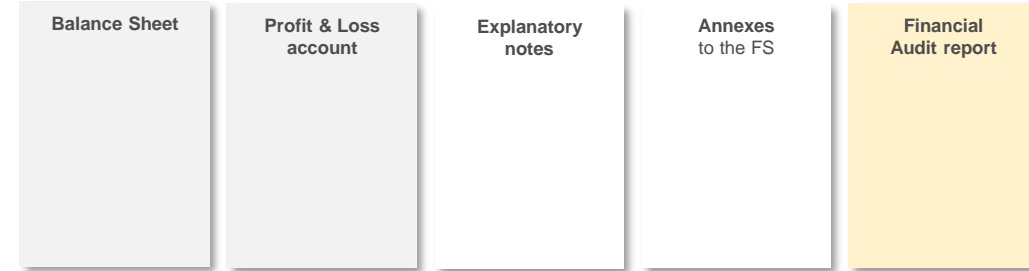
Validation & Verification of
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

FCA supporting documents

(via Participant Register)



- ✓ Balance sheet
- ✓ Profit and loss account
- ✓ Explanatory notes and/or annexes (if available)
- ✓ Financial audit report

Registration

Validation & Verification of
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

FCA supporting documents

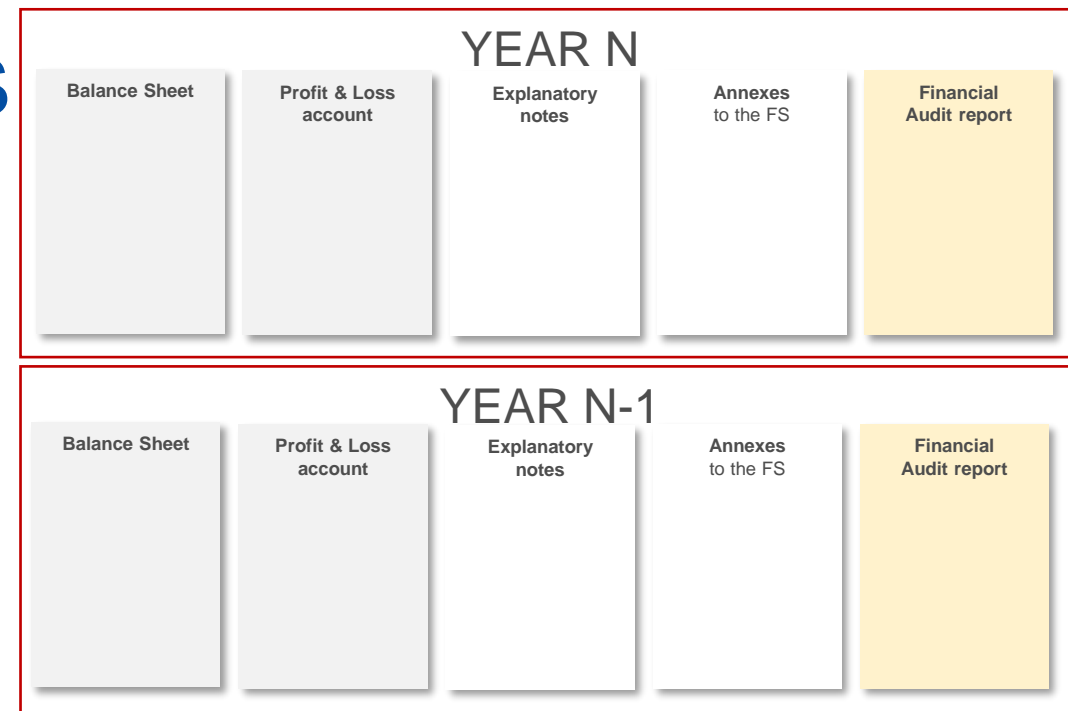
(via Participant Register)

✓ Balance sheet

✓ Profit and loss account

✓ Explanatory notes and/or annexes (if available)

✓ Financial audit report



For the 2 most recent closed and approved financial years

- official language (for EU languages)
- unofficial translation (for non-EU languages)
- dated
- signed

Registration

Validation & Verification of
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

FCA supporting documents

(via Participant Register)

✓ Balance sheet

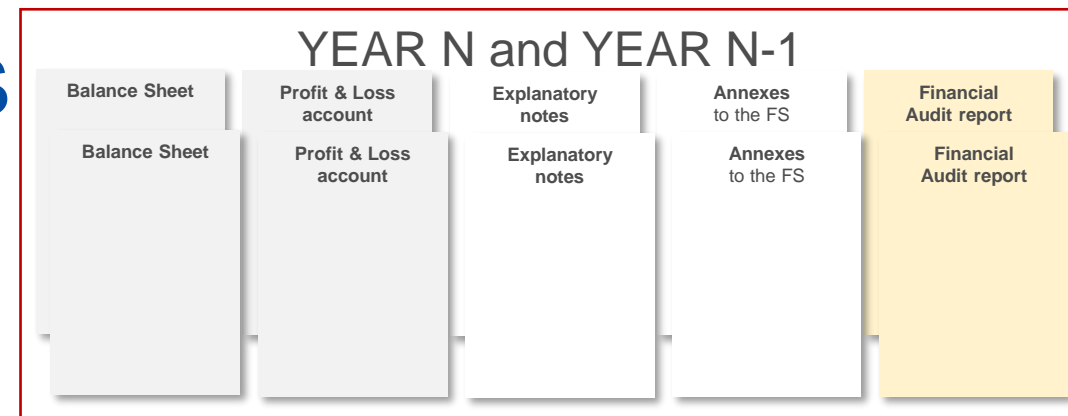
✓ Profit and loss account

✓ Explanatory notes and/or annexes (if available)

✓ Financial audit report

Newly established entities

✓ Business plan



For the 2 most recent closed and approved financial years

- official language (for EU languages)
- unofficial translation (for non-EU languages)
- dated
- signed

Business plan

Forecasts on:

- Sales
- Expenses

- Investments
- Financing sources

Registration

Validation & Verification of
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

FCA supporting documents

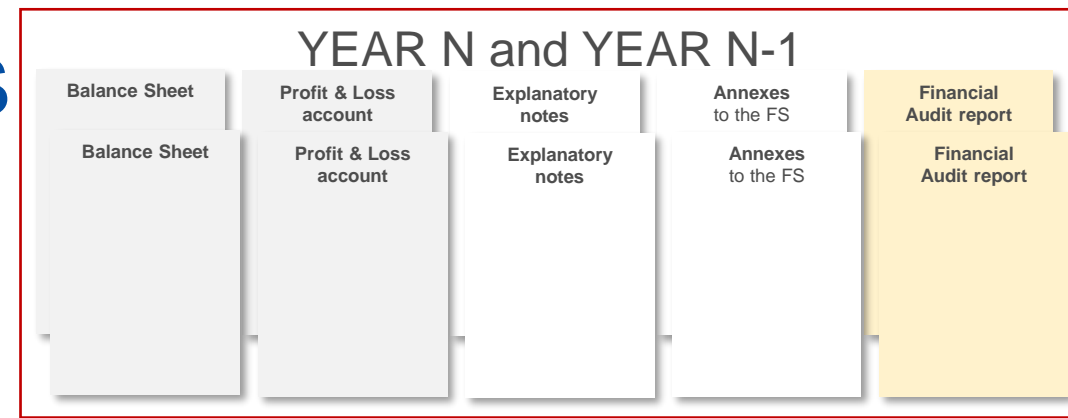
(via Participant Register)

✓ Balance sheet

✓ Profit and loss account

✓ Explanatory notes and/or annexes (if available)

✓ Financial audit report



For the 2 most recent closed and approved financial years

- official language (for EU languages)
- unofficial translation (for non-EU languages)
- dated
- signed

Newly established entities

✓ Business plan

Business plan

Once completed, the assessment is valid for 18 months from the closing date

Registration


Validation & Verification of
Legal Data

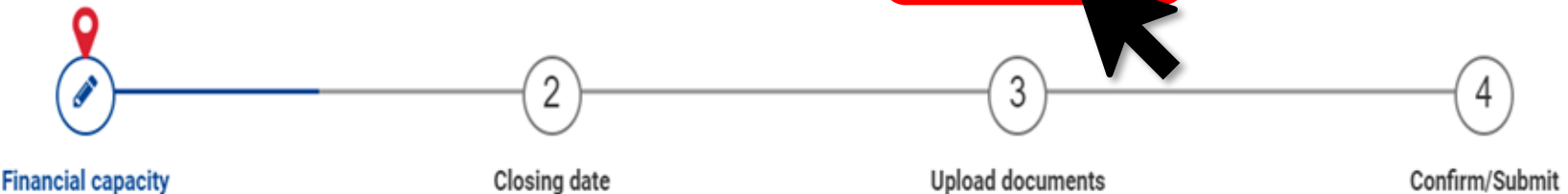
LEAR

FCA

Financial Capacity Assessment: Requests in Participant Register

PIC 890116427

Organisation Data	Legal Information	Authorised users / LEAR	Bank Accounts	Financial capacity 	Messages 1	Documents	SME
-------------------	-------------------	-------------------------	---------------	---	-------------------	-----------	-----



You might be requested to provide additional financial information. In this case you are asked to upload your financial statements containing the balance sheet, the profit & loss account, the corresponding explanatory notes and, under certain conditions, an audit report issued by a certified external auditor or a self-declaration on the validity of the accounts, signed by your legal representative, the template for which is available [here](#).

The financial statements must cover the last two most recent closed years. Note that, once uploaded, the financial statements for an accounting year with a closure date on or before 30 June will be displayed by the IT systems as related to the prior calendar year. [Find out more](#).

Closing date	Status	Actions
	Data Required	Provide necessary financial information

Registration


Validation & Verification of
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

Financial Capacity Assessment: Requests in Participant Register



PIC 890116427

Organisation Data Legal Information Authorised users / LEAR Bank Accounts Financial capacity  **Messages 1** Documents SME

[+ New message](#)

Messages

Read messages of your organisation and send messages to the EC ValidationServices.

Subject ↓	Message	Context ↓	Date ↓	Actions
 * Financial capacity assessment - Request for documents	Dear Participant, Following your recent a...	Financial capacity assessment	06/07/2021	 View

⏪ < 1 > ⏩

Registration

Validation & Verification of
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

Guidance documents



Rules on Legal validation, LEAR appointment and financial capacity assessment

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/rules-lev-lear-fca_en.pdf



How to register in the Participant Register

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/funding-tenders-opportunities/display/OM/Online+Manual>



Online Manual, IT How to, RES Helpdesk, specific FAQs on the Tenders Portal

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/support>



Legal notice on the Funding and Tenders Portal

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/legalnotice>

Join at
Slido.com
#CEFDigital



Questions & Answers



Closing

Take some time to fill in the short feedback survey in the streaming page!

CEF Digital Information Day

Thank you!

Take some time to fill in the short feedback survey in the streaming page!



hadea.ec.europa.eu



[HaDEA – European Health and Digital Executive Agency](#)



[@EU_HaDEA](#)

HADEA-CEF-DIGITAL-CALLS@ec.europa.eu



© European Union 2020

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](#) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.