

CEF TELECOM – 2020-2 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Public Open Data – 29 October 2020 version

All information in blue has been added or updated since the previous version.

Commonly used abbreviations in this FAQ

DCAT-AP	Data Catalogue Vocabulary Application Profile for data portals in Europe
HPC	High-Performance Computing
API	Application Programme Interface
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise

1. What is the difference between this call and the previous CEF-TC-2019-2 Public Open Data call?

The main differences between this year's call and the 2019-2 Public Open Data call is the explicit reference to the High Value Datasets domains as defined in the Open Data Directive (Directive (EU) 2019/1024 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on open data and the re-use of public sector information). It is also stressed that particular attention should be given to the following aspects: the generation of significant socio-economic or environmental benefits and innovative services; the number of benefitting users, in particular SMEs; the contribution to the data economy in terms of potential applications generated by the re-use of the chosen datasets, including in combination with other datasets.

In line with the Open Data Directive requirements on High Value Datasets, datasets used by and/or generated by the supported action will also need to be made available via standardised APIs, as well as provided as a bulk download, where relevant.

Regarding rights of re-use of the generated datasets, the conditions for the publication and re-use of high-value datasets generated by the proposed actions will have to be compatible with open standard licences.

2. My proposal will offer a service to be sold on the market. Is there any ceiling on the fees for services derived from CEF actions?

In accordance with Article 192 of the Financial Regulation, grants shall not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit within the framework of the action.¹ The rules governing the profit stemming from funded actions are laid out in Art. II.25.3 of the model grant agreement. Any profit made by the beneficiary (income generated by the action and/or financial contributions specifically assigned by the donors) would have to be declared to the Innovation & Networks Executive Agency (INEA) when submitting the Payment of the Balance request. Note that where the final amount of the grant would result in a profit for one or more beneficiaries, the profit will be deducted in proportion to the final rate of reimbursement of the actual eligible costs of the action approved by INEA for the relevant categories of costs.

¹ In the meaning of Article 125 of the Financial Regulation, profit is defined as a surplus of the receipts over the eligible costs incurred by the beneficiary, when the request is made for payment of the balance.

3. The call text refers to a mandatory compliance testing for the actions selected under this call. What does the testing include?

A milestone will be included in the grant agreements awarded to successful applicants obliging them to verify the compliance of the results of their Actions with the objectives of the Call. The precise form that this will take will be developed at a later stage, but in the past this has meant, for example, ensuring that: 1) relevant datasets (including metadata) resulting from the action have been published on a national portal or catalogue that is harvested by the European Data Portal² 2) metadata are DCAT-AP compliant, and the Metadata Quality Assurance (MQA)³ test is performed, results are positive and confirmed in the final report submitted to INEA.

4. Should proposals cover issues related to data privacy and security?

Indeed, under the award criterion 'Quality and efficiency of the implementation', the proposals will be evaluated as to how the aspects of privacy and security will be addressed during the action e.g. with respect to data collection, data processing and data storage. See section 9 of the call text for an overview of the award criteria and their significance.

5. Should the data we use in our proposed Action be European in nature?

In terms of the European nature of the data, the call text does not explicitly require that all input data must be of a European scale. However, proposals must address the generation of cross-border and/or cross-domain services re-using information made discoverable/available through the European Data Portal in combination with other sources of information.

This means that data should be drawn from at least two different sources, where applicable, and/or be relevant for more than one Member States in terms of geographical data coverage and/or usefulness.

6. Can small companies be eligible in a consortium applying to the Public Open data call?

Small companies are not only eligible to apply, but are encouraged to also, provided that the consortium composition requirements, as defined in the call text, are met. More information about eligible applicants and consortium composition requirements is provided in section 6 of the call text ("Eligibility criteria").

7. Are there already existing CEF Telecom projects on Public Open Data?

Yes, there have been five past CEF Telecom calls on Public Open Data, but with slightly different objectives compared to the currently open call. Information about the Actions underway as a result of these calls is available on the INEA website at <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility/cef-telecom/projects-by-dsi/public-open-data>.

8. Is an Innovation Consultancy permitted to be the coordinator of a proposal submitted to this call?

Yes, provided that the consultancy firm is eligible to apply to the call and has the intention to be one of the beneficiaries of the grant. In line with section 6.1 of the call text, private undertakings or bodies established in a Member State or EEA country may submit an application, as long as they have secured the agreement of the Member State(s) or EEA country(ies) concerned.

² <http://data.europa.eu/europeandataportal>

³ <https://www.europeandataportal.eu/mqa?locale=en>

9. Do all data resulting from the Action have to be made publicly available as open data (taking into account that sensitive data such as health data from patients cannot be made publicly available and/or that some data providers may need to generate revenues from the data for the sustainability of their business)?

The call does not require that all the final data is findable on the European Data Portal, but it is required that key datasets (including metadata) resulting from the action are published on a national portal or catalogue that is harvested by the European Data Portal (see section 2.1 of the call text). If such publication on a **national** open data portal or catalogue is not possible, applicants must duly justify the reasons why, and ensure that the relevant datasets (including metadata) resulting from the Action will be made publicly available as open data elsewhere (open data refers to data that are re-usable for free).

10. The eligibility criteria for this call require proposals to be submitted by consortia consisting of at least one public sector body. What is the definition of a public sector body?

For the purposes of this call, an entity is considered a public sector body if it meets the definition provided in Article 2 of the Directive on the Re-use of Public Sector Information, also known as the 'PSI Directive' (Directive 2003/98/EC amended by Directive 2013/37/EU. For information, the consolidated version of the Directive is available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:02003L0098-20130717>).

According to Article 2 of the Directive:

"1. 'public sector body' means the State, regional or local authorities, bodies governed by public law and associations formed by one or several such authorities or one or several such bodies governed by public law;

2. 'body governed by public law' means any body:

(a) established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character; and

(b) having legal personality; and

(c) financed, for the most part by the State, or regional or local authorities, or other bodies governed by public law; or subject to management supervision by those bodies; or having an administrative, managerial or supervisory board, more than half of whose members are appointed by the State, regional or local authorities or by other bodies governed by public law."

11. Should applicants to this call propose to use the Big Data Test Infrastructure (BDTI) CEF Building Block in their Action?

The call only supports solutions that are mature, and therefore ready to be deployed. In contrast, the Big Data Test Infrastructure (BDTI) CEF Building Block is designed to enable public authorities to test solutions, before making them operational, therefore it is a previous phase to deployment.

12. Section 2.1 of the call text states that proposals must include "Concrete Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in order to evaluate the benefits of the implemented solution(s) for citizens and/or businesses". Should the Action include an activity to monitor the service once it is finished, in order that the data of those KPIs is collected?

Yes, however it is for the applicants to decide either to encode (in Application Form Part A) a dedicated activity that assesses the effects of their implemented solutions, or instead to embed that assessment within another activity.

As stated in reply 15.1A2 of the CEF Telecom General FAQs document, an "activity" is a part of the proposed Action that is distinct technically, financially or over time and which contributes to the completion of the proposed Action. It may be composed of one or more tasks. The implementation of an activity leads to the completion of an expected result or output, and/or one or more deliverables (e.g. report, specification).

13. Would the call support making current products and services that are available currently on DVDs, and have a licence fee, open and available as a service?

Yes, provided that the applicant verifies that the source of the data complies with the following requirement in section 2.1 of the call text:

"Proposed Actions must address the generation of cross-border and/or cross domain services re-using information made discoverable/available through the European Data Portal in combination with other sources of information. This means that data should be drawn from at least two different sources, where applicable, and/or be relevant for more than one Member State in terms of geographical data coverage and/or usefulness."

14. Can the new service be an extension of an existing CEF element, for example, a new service extending the functionality of the Context Broker?

Yes it can be, provided that the requirements of the call text (particularly those listed under section 2.1) are fulfilled.

15. Does the call support proposals that increase capacity of data infrastructure in public sector bodies to enable creation of new services and extending existing ones?

Yes, the call supports such type of proposals. However, it is important to keep in mind that all other aspects of the Priorities and Objectives of the call must also be taken into account when drafting the proposal.

16. Is it possible to submit a proposal containing the methodology for the creation of the services, meeting the requirements applicable to the call regarding the sources of information to be used, or is it necessary to present a concrete service?

Yes, it is possible. However, applicants should keep in mind that the proposed service should be able to be implemented concretely, at least for testing purposes, and be made available for operational use.

17. Regarding the data retrieved through the European Data Portal and those coming from other sources of information: do these sets of data need to come from different countries?

No, not necessarily. However, the cross-border scope of the Call must in some way be respected. This means that data sources must either come from two (or more) different sources (which may indeed be from the same country), and/or be relevant for more than one Member State in terms of geographical data coverage and/or usefulness.

18. If we need a software licence to publish open data with geographic coordinates, is it possible to include the cost of licence in the application?

Please refer section 11 of the [General FAQs](#) related to the eligibility of costs.

19. What is meant by "Proposals must address the generation of cross-border and/or cross-domain services"?

Section 2.1 of the call text defines clear requirements related to the topics to be covered and points to be addressed by the proposals.

20. Considering the total budget of €3 million earmarked for this Public Open Data call, do you expect to fund one or more projects?

The number of proposals funded will depend not only on the total budget earmarked for the call, but also on the total EU contribution requested of the successful proposals and on the EU contribution granted to successful proposals.

21. We plan to develop a solution using Open Data, which we will scale to cover all public procurement in our country and build a limited pilot. Given the timeframe, can we submit this pilot for funding under this call?

For the purposes of this call, only solutions that have reached an adequate level of maturity, i.e., solutions that integrate, build and/or follow on from pre-existing work, will be supported. In this respect, proposals will be assessed based on their technical merits against the requirements described in the Call text (namely, section 2), e.g., proposals must clearly detail how aspects such as discoverability and availability of datasets through Open Data Portals and the European Data Portal, harmonisation, interoperability, use of existing/newly developed APIs for the data re-used and/or generated by the proposed Action, etc. will be addressed. In addition, when addressing a DSI-specific domain (e.g., public procurement data), proposals must clearly detail how proposed solutions differ from the solutions defined under the corresponding call text (e.g. eProcurement call text).

22. Would the call support using as input of the project: 1) proprietary data not combined with open data, i.e., directly from a provider (e.g. company data), and 2) proprietary data combined with open data (e.g. company ownership and company data coming from public sources combined with private sources for an increased level of granularity)?

In line with section 2.1 of the call text, proposals must address the generation of cross-border and/or cross-domain services re-using information made discoverable/available through the European Data Portal, in combination with other sources of information, where applicable. Thus, proprietary data not combined with open data would not satisfy the requirements of the call in terms of the specific inputs to be used in the implementation of the proposed action. Nevertheless, a combination of proprietary and open data would be in line with the call. Please, note that with regards to the data resulting from the Action, conditions as described under Q9 above must be complied to.

23. Can municipalities apply for this call even though they don't have access to national-wide data?

Yes. As stated in section 2.1 of the call text, the geographic coverage of the dataset(s) may be pan-European or at the level of one or more EU regions or Member States, where the term "EU region" refers to administrative units at any level of governance, therefore, including the geographic extent of municipalities.

To be noted that, in addition, the consortium has to fulfil the requirements described in section 6 of the call text and that the cross-border scope of the call must be respected, as specified in section 2.2 of the call text which requires the cross-border availability of public open data. This means that data sources must either come from two (or more) different sources (which may indeed be from

the same country), and/or be relevant for more than one Member State in terms of geographical data coverage and/or usefulness.

24. Section 2.1 of the call text indicates that “Where applicable, existing or newly developed Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) must be used as far as possible for the data re-used and/or generated by the proposed action.” Where can we find examples of API’s that can be re-used?

Re-usable APIs are numerous and choosing the most appropriate one(s) depends on the nature of the proposed solutions. Therefore, the choice of the most suitable API is entirely up to the applicants.

Regarding the kind of interactions that the proposed solutions may have with the European Data Portal, related relevant information is listed below:

API access URLs can be found here:

- CKAN: <https://www.europeandataportal.eu/data/search/> (Note: Only 'Read-Only' actions are currently supported for this API)
- SPARQL: <http://www.europeandataportal.eu/sparql>
- Use Cases: <https://www.europeandataportal.eu/en/export-use-cases>

API Documentation is available for the following services/tools:

- CKAN: <https://www.europeandataportal.eu/data/search/>
- SPARQL: <https://www.w3.org/TR/rdf-sparql-query/>
- MQA tool:
 - MQA methodology: <https://www.europeandataportal.eu/mqa/methodology>
 - Metrics caching: <https://www.europeandataportal.eu/api/mqa/cache/>
- SHACL (metadata validation): <https://www.europeandataportal.eu/shacl/>
- Triplestore: <https://www.europeandataportal.eu/data/api/>