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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 8.7.2020**

**on the selection and award of grants under the Connecting Europe Facility in the sector  
of Telecommunications**

## COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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### on the selection and award of grants under the Connecting Europe Facility in the sector of Telecommunications

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing the Connecting Europe Facility, amending Regulation (EU) No 913/2010 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 680/2007 and (EC) No 67/2010 (hereafter the 'Connecting Europe Facility Regulation')<sup>1</sup>,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 283/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 on guidelines for trans-European networks in the area of telecommunications infrastructure and repealing Decision No 1336/97/EC (hereafter the 'Connecting Europe Facility – Telecommunication Regulation')<sup>2</sup>,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2017/1953 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2017 amending Regulations (EU) No 1316/2013 and (EU) No 283/2014 as regards the promotion of internet connectivity in local communities<sup>3</sup>

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012<sup>4</sup> and in particular Article 200 thereof.

Whereas:

- (1) In accordance with the 2019-2020<sup>5</sup> Multi-Annual CEF Telecom Work Programme, the Innovation and Network Executive Agency (hereinafter referred to as "the Agency") published the call for proposals "WiFi4EU-2020-1" on 3 June 2020 with the deadline on 4 June 2020.
- (2) The Agency received 8,644 proposals in response to this call. The proposals were evaluated and ranked by the Agency, in accordance with the procedures set out in Article 200 of the financial rules<sup>6</sup> and in compliance with the "first come, first served" award method and the geographical balance selection criteria set out in the in the call

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 348, 20.12.2013, p. 129.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 86, 21.03.2014, p. 14.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 286, 01.11.2017, p. 1.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

<sup>5</sup> Decision C(2020)1078 of 28.02.2020

<sup>6</sup> OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

for proposal and in Annex of Regulation (EU) No 283/2014<sup>7</sup> as amended by paragraph 6 of Article 2 of Regulation 2017/1953<sup>8</sup>.

- (3) Of the total number of proposals received, 7,164 proposals were not successful in their applications as they failed to satisfy the admissibility, eligibility and/or the selection criteria set out in the work programme.
- (4) Following this evaluation (and having regard to the available budget– within the limit of the maximum variation of up to 20% of the indicative budget set out in the work programme), the authorising officer drew up a proposal for a funding decision.
- (5) The decision on the amount of financial assistance to be granted to the projects selected requires – under Article 18 of Connecting Europe Facility Regulation – an adoption in *mode décisionnel*.
- (6) The powers to adopt such decisions have been delegated by Commission Decision C(2015) 4172 of 17 June 2015 to the Director-General of DG Communications Networks, Content & Technology.
- (7) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee set out by Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013.
- (8) As a result, the proposals listed in Annex 1 should be funded while the proposals listed in Annex 2 should be considered as a reserve list.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1*

The 947 proposals listed in Annex 1 are selected and awarded a grant of 15,000 Euros for each selected proposal, for a total amount of 14,205,000 Euros.

#### *Article 2*

The 533 proposals listed in Annex 2 shall constitute a reserve list.

Proposals included in the reserve list are considered notselected at this stage due to lack of budgetary appropriations. In case additional budgetary appropriations become available, those applicants may be contacted, no later than 30/10/2020, with a view to inform them that their application could be financed in the order based on the selection criteria set out in the call for proposal and in the Annex of Regulation (EU) No 283/2014<sup>9</sup> as amended by paragraph 6 of Article 2 of Regulation 2017/1953<sup>10</sup>. The applicants are to be informed accordingly.

#### *Article 3*

Of the total number of proposals received, 7,133 were not successful in their application for the reason of being too low in the ranking (including 28 applications not successful in their application for the reason of not providing any supporting documents) and 31 were not successful in their application for the reason of providing documents not complying with the call criteria. All together 7,164 proposals were not successful in their application as they failed to satisfy the admissibility, eligibility and/or the selection criteria set out in the work

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<sup>7</sup> OJ L 86, 21.3.2014, p. 14.

<sup>8</sup> OJ L 286, 1.11.2017, p. 1.

<sup>9</sup> OJ L 86, 21.3.2014, p. 14.

<sup>10</sup> OJ L 286, 1.11.2017, p. 1.

programme. These proposals are deemed to be rejected and the applicants are to be informed accordingly.

Done at Brussels, 8.7.2020

*e-signed*

*For the Commission*

*Morten Fjalland*

Director of Directorate R

DG CONNECT