

# Connecting Europe Facility – Results of the 2016 Transport calls for proposals

152 projects, requesting a total of €2.7 billion in EU funding, were selected for funding.

## **What are the types of projects which receive funding?**

The [2016 Connecting Europa Facility \(CEF\) Transport calls for proposals](#) have three funding objectives:

- Removing bottlenecks and bridging missing links, enhancing rail interoperability, and, in particular, improving cross-border sections that invite applicants from all Member States
- Ensuring sustainable and efficient transport systems in the long run, with a view to preparing for expected future transport flows, as well as enabling all modes of transport to be decarbonised through transition to innovative low-carbon and energy-efficient transport technologies, while optimising safety
- Optimising the integration and interconnection of transport modes and enhancing the interoperability of transport services, while ensuring the accessibility of transport infrastructures

Funding is awarded to carry out works supporting these three objectives or studies.

## **Who applied?**

349 applicants from all Member States and several neighbouring countries submitted proposals for a total of nearly €7.5 billion of co-funding by the call deadline on 7 February 2017. The applicants were mostly Member States and public or private undertakings.

All Member States could apply for funding under the general calls, whereas only the 15 Member States eligible for funding from the EU's Cohesion Fund could apply for funding under the Cohesion call.

The CEF call has been over-subscribed almost 4 times, and the Cohesion envelope 6.5 times the amount of funds indicatively available.

## **Which Member States are eligible for funding from the EU's Cohesion Fund?**

The eligible Member States are: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

## **Could third countries participate?**

Applicants from neighbouring countries could participate in the calls under certain conditions and may only receive financial assistance if it is necessary to the achievement of the objectives of a given project of common interest. Further information is available on the call's [FAQ page](#). One project in Serbia for navigation on Rhine-Danube corridor will receive financing within this call.

### **How much funding was available under the 2016 CEF Transport calls for proposals?**

€1.9 billion was available to fund one or several call objectives. An additional sum of €639 million from unspent funds of several ongoing actions was made available to support projects in Member States eligible for funding from the EU's Cohesion Fund.

### **How is the EU funding for transport infrastructure awarded?**

CEF Transport funding is awarded via competitive calls for proposals mainly through grants. The 2016 CEF Transport calls for proposals were published by [the European Commission's Innovation and Networks Executive Agency \(INEA\)](#) on 13 October 2016 and remained open until 7 February 2017.

The selection was based on a standard evaluation process in two phases:

- External assessment by independent experts basing their evaluation on pre-identified award criteria to ensure transparency and equal treatment of all eligible proposals
- Internal selection by the Commission service in charge of Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE), which undertook a qualitative analysis of the overall contribution of projects for the development of EU transport policy

**Following these two steps, 152 projects, requesting a total of €2.7 billion in EU funding, were retained. The European Commission's Innovation and Networks Executive Agency will prepare and sign individual grant agreements with project beneficiaries by autumn 2017.**

### **What projects will get CEF funding under the 2016 calls for proposals?**

Projects selected for funding are those with the highest EU added-value and primarily located on the [core trans-European transport network](#). In order to ensure the most effective use of limited EU resources, these grants will be reserved for projects which are difficult to implement due to their cross-border nature, or due to a very long return on investment.

Examples of projects to be financed under the general envelope include:

- Deployment of Air Traffic Management solutions for faster, safer and more efficient travel in EU Member States (€274.8 million CEF co-funding)
- Construction of the second tunnel tube for the Karawanken road tunnel on

the Austria-Slovenia cross-border section to improve road traffic flow, as well as increase capacity and road safety (€17.7 million CEF co-funding)

- Deployment of 158 high-speed electric charging points in Sweden, Denmark, Germany, France, the United Kingdom and Italy to make electric travel across borders possible (€10.2 million CEF co-funding)

The calls that were open for projects in Member States eligible for funding from the EU's Cohesion Fund will support the flagship infrastructure projects on the core [Trans-European transport network](#), in particular those which address low carbon modes of transport such as railways, inland waterways and ports.

Examples of projects financed include:

- Upgrade of the Białyłstok-Ełk section of the E75 railway line in Poland, including trackside ERTMS deployment, to shorten the travel time and increase the efficiency and safety of rail transport (€338 million CEF co-funding)
- Third stage of the Rail Baltica project that will adapt the rail link between the Baltic States to the EU gauge (€110.5 million CEF co-funding)
- Implementation of harmonised and synchronised Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) applications on the high level road network in the Central European region for improved cross-border traffic (€4.2 million CEF co-funding)
- Modernisation and development of the rail infrastructure necessary for transport operations at the Rijeka Port – (€28.6 million CEF co-funding)

### **How does the co-financing work? How much money comes from Member States and how much from the EU?**

Transport infrastructure requires significant investment – and an important share will always come from Member States and other public and private investors. The EU's role in terms of investment and co-ordination is to add value by removing difficult bottlenecks and building missing links and connections, and to support the creation of a real European transport network.

The normal CEF co-financing rates for TEN-T projects are:

- For the cohesion envelope: up to 85% for all projects
- For the general envelope:
  - o Up to 50% for studies
  - o Up to 10% for works on cross-border road sections
  - o Up to 20% for works (for example exploratory works for a major tunnel)
  - o Up to 50% for certain traffic management projects, like for ERTMS, to support Member States making the transition to higher standards

The call texts do not define the minimum amount of requested funding. The European Commission however strongly encourages applicants to only submit projects requesting an EU contribution for the eligible costs above €500,000 for studies and €1,000,000 for works. Applications below these thresholds are checked on a case-by-case basis.

### **How will the projects be managed?**

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

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

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

What are the perspectives for further financing?

A CEF Blending call for €1bn EU funds is ongoing with two milestones for applications: 14 July and Nov. 2017. This allows financing projects across CEF objectives, in combination with EFSI funds whenever possible, or, for projects removing bottlenecks or with cross-border benefits, also with EIB, National Promotional Banks or private sector.

About 95% of the CEF Transport budget 2014-2020 will be committed, once the CEF Blending call amount of € 1 billion will be allocated (expected by end 2017). Thus, to support investments in the key priority area (promoting connectivity, efficiency, decarbonisation and digitalisation of transport) in the second half of the MFF 2014-2020, efforts to find additional sources of funds have to be made, including the proposed increase of ceilings for CEF-Transport by €300 million (under MFF Mid-Term Review), use of blending, ESI funds, EFSI and leverage of private sources whenever possible.

In addition, the European Structural Investment funds (ESI funds) Operational Programmes of Members States foresee funding of about EUR 70 billion for Transport investments during 2014-2020.

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**[Xi stresses reform, development, stability during inspection tour](#)**



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with local villagers at Songjiagou New Village, a centralized resettlement site under the approach of alleviating poverty through relocation, in Kelan County of Xinzhou City, north China's Shanxi Province, June 21, 2017. Xi had a three-day inspection tour in Shanxi from Wednesday. (Xinhua/Li Xueren)

Chinese President Xi Jinping has urged all Party committees to advance reform, development and stability to create a sound environment for the upcoming 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Xi, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, made the remarks during an inspection tour in northern Shanxi Province, calling the congress a significant event for the Party and national political life.

During his inspection tour from Wednesday to Friday, Xi visited a revolutionary memorial museum, villages and enterprises in Shanxi Province.

At the revolutionary memorial museum in Xing County of Lyuliang city, Xi left a basket of flowers Wednesday morning to pay respect to the country's war heroes.

The president said he was deeply moved after seeing pictures and old objects that reminded people of the old days of revolutionary struggle.

"Each part of the CPC's revolutionary history is a vivid textbook of ideals and faith," Xi said, urging Party members to forge ahead while staying true to the mission taken up by the CPC when it was founded in 1921.

He said that every Party member should remember the revolutionaries who devoted their lives to national independence and the people's liberation, keep the mettle of the CPC members, be honest with the people, and create a

better life for the people.

Xi met representatives of the old revolutionaries, spoke highly of their contribution and wished them good health.

On Wednesday afternoon, after over an hour's drive, Xi visited three households in Zhaojiawa village in the destitute areas of Lyuliang Mountain region. He asked villagers the reasons for their poverty and the effects of anti-poverty measures.

After hearing that villager Liu Fuyou, his 71-year-old wife and 92-year-old mother were ill, Xi urged local officials to pay close attention to poverty caused by illness.

"In the past, I could not even dream that impoverished households could receive so much help from the Party and the government," villager Cao Liuren told Xi.

"The Party and the government aim to serve the people, and it is our duty to let people live a better life," Xi said.

Villager Wang Sannyu's husband and son have passed away and her grandson and granddaughter are disabled. Xi urged local officials to arrange special education for her grandchildren.

To know drought-relief measures, Xi inspected a shallow well, the only water source for the village, as well as a cornfield. He also visited officials who were sent to help with poverty alleviation.

"It's the Party's solemn promise to let poverty-stricken people and areas enter a 'moderately prosperous society' along with the rest of the nation," said Xi. He said efforts must be made to deliver on the promise no matter how arduous the process.

He called on poverty relief staff to stay humble, improve their abilities and realize their value by solving problems for the poor.

All the villagers came to see Xi off, applauding and cheering.

Xi visited Songjiagou New Village in Kelan county, where new houses have been built for people relocated from poor areas. Xi visited the home of impoverished villager Zhang Guiming, chatting with him about subsidies for resettlement as well as his new life and current troubles.

Xi said a major issue was to solve abject poverty. He said resettlement projects must respect the people's will, taking relocation sites, investment, income, environmental protection and village management into consideration.

The president called on the villagers to "roll up sleeves and work harder together with the CPC Central Committee."

Xi stressed technological innovation while visiting a rail transit equipment producer and a carbon materials company Thursday.

He inspected innovations in equipment manufacturing, electronic information, energy conservation and environmental protection, as well new materials and the coal chemical industry.

“Enterprises should play a major role in promoting industrial upgrading which is market-oriented. Breakthroughs should be made in technological transformation and innovation,” he said.

He called on the rail transit equipment company to grasp the opportunities of China’s transport development and the building of the Belt and Road to promote technological innovation and brand building.

“The creativity of enterprises, research institutes and researchers should be mobilized,” said Xi while inspecting the carbon materials company, adding they should get both a sense of achievement in innovation as well a sense of gains from the transformation of their achievements.

After hearing reports of Shanxi provincial officials, Xi praised their achievements in social and economic development, calling on local authorities and people to be bold in reform and innovation, and in tackling challenges.

Xi asked local authorities to enhance economic transformation by creating a good business environment and deepening supply-side structural reform.

Stating that issues of farmers, agriculture and the countryside are key priorities of the whole Party, Xi urged speeding up agricultural modernization and raising income of farmers via means ranging from better training to better basic public services.

Xi called for more efforts to improve people’s livelihoods by offering them better education and healthcare services.

Xi stressed green development, saying that stronger measures should be taken in economic transformation, environmental pollution control, ecological protection and restoration, as well as resource saving.

He called for strict intra-Party life, asking all Party organizations and Party members to follow rules on intra-Party political life and observe regulations and discipline.

“Officials who are both clean and willing to work deserve more opportunities of development,” Xi said.

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**[Torrential rain affects 390,000 people](#)**



## [in C. China](#)

Torrential rain lashed parts of central China's Hunan and Hubei provinces over the past two days, with flooding affecting at least 390,000 people.

In western and northern Hunan, heavy rain triggered flash floods, damaging mountain roads and raising the risk of landslides, the provincial flood control and drought relief headquarters said Friday.

The storms, the heaviest this summer, brought over 160 mm of rainfall in some areas in just one day. In Yueyang, 47 small and medium-sized reservoirs overflowed.

Floods have affected 334,000 people in 13 counties and districts, toppling 46 houses and forcing the evacuation of 9,100 people.

Heavy rain is forecast to continue in Hunan in the next five days.

In Xianning of Hubei, rain-triggered power outages affected 30,000 households. But by Friday evening, power have been restored to 87 percent of the households.

In Chongyang county of Xianning, floods affected over 50,000 people and damaged around 4,660 hectares of crops. Meanwhile, 26 small reservoirs overflowed.

In Puge county of southwest China's Sichuan Province, rain-triggered landslides left two villagers dead and one missing early Friday morning. Four more were injured but were in stable condition after emergency treatment.

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## [China's draft law on supervision submitted for review](#)

The draft law on national supervision was submitted for review at the ongoing bi-monthly session of the top legislature, according to a statement issued after a plenary meeting of the session Friday.

Zhang Dejiang, chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, attended Friday's meeting.

"The legislation is aimed at deepening the national supervision system and forming a unified, authoritative and efficient supervision system," said Li Jianguo, vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, while making an explanation of the draft at the meeting.



China has begun to pilot the supervisory system reform in Beijing Municipality and the provinces of Shanxi and Zhejiang.

The pilot sees the establishment of local supervisory commissions at three levels – provincial, municipal and county – in order to form an integrated supervision system.

The draft was formulated based on pilot experience and in-depth research by the NPC Standing Committee and the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the Communist Party of China, Li said.

A chairpersons' meeting decided to submit the draft to lawmakers for review at the ongoing session, Li said.

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## [It is essential that the details of any agreement with the DUP are made public – John McDonnell](#)

John McDonnell MP, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, has today written to the Chancellor, Philip Hammond MP, calling on him to make public the cost of any secret deals the Government are making with the DUP.

Calling it "essential" that the details of any agreement are made public, the Shadow Chancellor lays out a number of questions that Hammond must answer around additional spending as well as the Barnett Formula implications of any potential deal.

### **Ends**

Letter  
from Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell MP to Chancellor Philip Hammond MP:

Dear  
Chancellor

I  
am writing to call on you, in the interests of transparency, to publish the financial consequences of any electoral deal reached between the Conservative Party and the Democratic Unionist Party.

There  
has been speculation in the media about possible additional infrastructure

and  
NHS spending for Northern Ireland, or reductions in Northern Ireland rates of corporation tax, VAT and/or Air Passenger Duty.

It  
is essential that the details of any agreement are made public, including any costing calculations and evidence for measures which are agreed, and how additional spending or reduced tax revenue will be affected by Barnett Formula considerations.

Specifically,  
will any additional spending or tax cuts offered to Northern Ireland be offset through reductions in the Northern Ireland block grant and if not how will additional spending be paid for?

Can  
you clarify whether any additional spending will be funded from general UK-wide taxation, or by increased borrowing, or by some other means?

Since  
your Spring Budget there has already emerged a 'black hole' of £2bn as a result of the Government's U-turn on increasing Class 4 National Insurance contributions. Can you inform us how you are planning to plug this gap: with further spending cuts, tax rises, or additional borrowing? I note that this comes in the context of Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts for an increase in Public Sector Net Borrowing this year.

I  
look forward to receiving your reply,

John  
McDonnell MP

Shadow Chancellor