



Towards a Gigabit society Connectivity for the future 2021-2027

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Overview of the Commission's work on Connectivity

- ❑ **Policy: A common vision and strategic objectives:**
 - ❑ Gigabit Society Strategy and 5G Action Plan in 2016
- ❑ **Regulation: Creating an investment friendly regulatory environment:**
 - ❑ European Electronic Communications Code transposed by 2019
 - ❑ Cost Reduction Directive (implementation report June 2018)
- ❑ **Funding:**
 - ❑ Implementing **European Structure and Investments Funds (ESIF)** 2014-20
 - ❑ Launch of a new **Connecting Europe Broadband Fund (CEBF)** in 2018
 - ❑ **WiFi4EU initiative** to support free connectivity in public spaces 2018/19
 - ❑ Adoption of **CEF Digital** proposals for the next MFF in 2019
- ❑ **Support: Knowledge distribution and technical assistance:**
 - ❑ **Network of Broadband Competence Offices (BCO)** inclusive Rural Action Plan launched in 2017
 - ❑ **Broadband Europe website**, monthly: **Broadband Newsletter** (over 9000 subscribers), yearly: **B-Days** conference with stakeholders and a **European Broadband Awards** competition

Connectivity Context and Motivation: market failure in rural areas



Fixed internet connection:

- End of 2018, **83% of European households** had access to fast fixed internet connection **above 30 Mbps download** (up from 67.3% in 2014).
- **Ultrafast broadband, above 100 Mbps, also as backbone for 5G**, is available in **60% of EU households** (up from 43.9% in 2014).
- But this goes down to **53%** (above 30 Mbps) and **19%** (above 100 Mbps) **for households in rural areas**, with **significant variations between Member States**. Some MS are amongst global leaders.



4G mobile coverage and 5G:

- EU average of **4G mobile coverage** is **98%**, but **90% for households in rural areas**
- **Fibre to the home/building** as **key infrastructure for 5G** and fastest-growing technology already acquired a **16 % market share**

Strategy Towards a "European Gigabit Society"

3 strategic connectivity objectives for 2025

- **All main socio-economic drivers (SED)** should have **access to gigabit connectivity**: schools, business parks, universities, research centres, hospitals, etc.
- **All urban areas and major roads and railways** should have **uninterrupted 5G coverage**; 5G should be commercially available in at least one major city in each EU Member State by 2020
- **All European households**, rural or urban, should have access to connectivity offering a download speed of **at least 100 Mbps, upgradable to gigabit speed**

**National
Broadband Plans
Review and
Update**

**Investment gap of
€ 155 billion
over 10 years**

**Post-2020
Multi-Financial
Framework (MFF)**

Financial support for broadband under the next MFF

Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

- **ERDF:** broadband investments under **priority objective 3**, together with transport and energy infrastructure
- **EAFRD:** broadband investment **only as part of local development** projects

Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) – Digital

- **EUR 3 bn**
- Focus on connectivity **infrastructure to enable digital transformation**
- **Synergies with CEF transport and CEF energy networks** within CEF Programme

InvestEU

- Part of **Sustainable Infrastructure Window**
- **11.5 bn guarantee** available for broadband investments, *but* also other infrastructures

CEF DIGITAL 2021-2027 - €3 billion in areas where the market does not deliver

- Pursuing the Gigabit Society Strategy objectives: **supporting MS in addressing the overall funding gap (€155 billion)** with strategic projects
- **Complementarity with Digital Europe, Structural Funds & InvestEU**
 - **Cross-border 5G transport corridors** (road, railways or waterways), allowing 5G-connected mobility **between EU Member States**
 - **Connectivity for 5G communities** (Gigabit connected for Social-Economic Drivers (SED): hospitals, schools, business parks, public Wi-Fi & 5G small cells) in areas **with a risk of lagging behind** in 5G coverage
 - **Cross-border backbone connectivity of strategic importance** (e.g. Terabit connectivity for High Performance Computing (HPC) or Submarine cables)
 - **Synergy actions** (Transport – Energy – Digital)

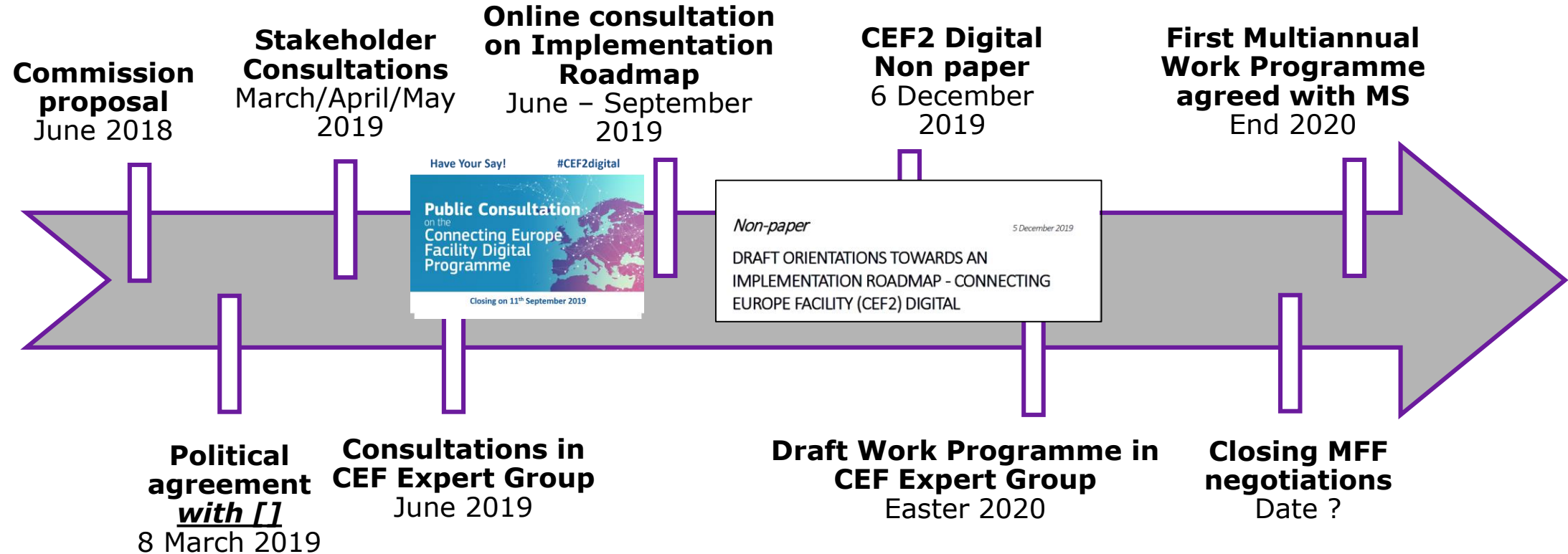
Funding strategic infrastructure projects for the Digital Economy

- ✓ **Co-funding** projects up to 30%/50%/75% of eligible costs, up to 100% for small value grants (vouchers)
- ✓ **Close involvement of MS:**
 - ✓ Detailed provisions set in **work programmes:** funding decisions in CEF Committee
 - ✓ **MS agreement on projects submitted;** role for state aid, coverage obligations, etc.
- ✓ **Direct management** by the Commission, grant management delegated to INEA or other entities
- ✓ **Complementarity with Digital Europe and Structural Funds** (including voluntary transfers to CEF & InvestEU or CEBF 2)

Socio-Economic Drivers and Use-Cases



CEF2 DIGITAL 2021-2027 - Timeline





Thank you for your interest!

To be continued...work in progress!

#CEF2digital

