



CEF Digital  
EU infrastructure funding  
2021-2027

# 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

- Alignment with Gigabit Society Strategy objectives: supporting MS in addressing the overall funding gap (€155 bn) with strategic projects
- Complementarity with Digital Europe, structural funds & InvestEU

## Grants for:

- Cross-border 5G automotive corridors (but also railways, inland waterways)
- Gigabit connected hospitals, schools, business parks, public Wi-Fi & coverage of surrounding areas (5G communities)
- Key international/ cross-border connectivity etc.

# 5G corridors along transport paths

- Uninterrupted 5G coverage of cross-border sections on pre-agreed (indicative) corridors
- 5G coverage of other transport paths (rail, inland waterways)

Strategic deployment agenda & cross-sector public - private partnerships (access to roads, spectrum, intra-MS service)

Complementary to Digital Europe and Horizon Europe Programmes



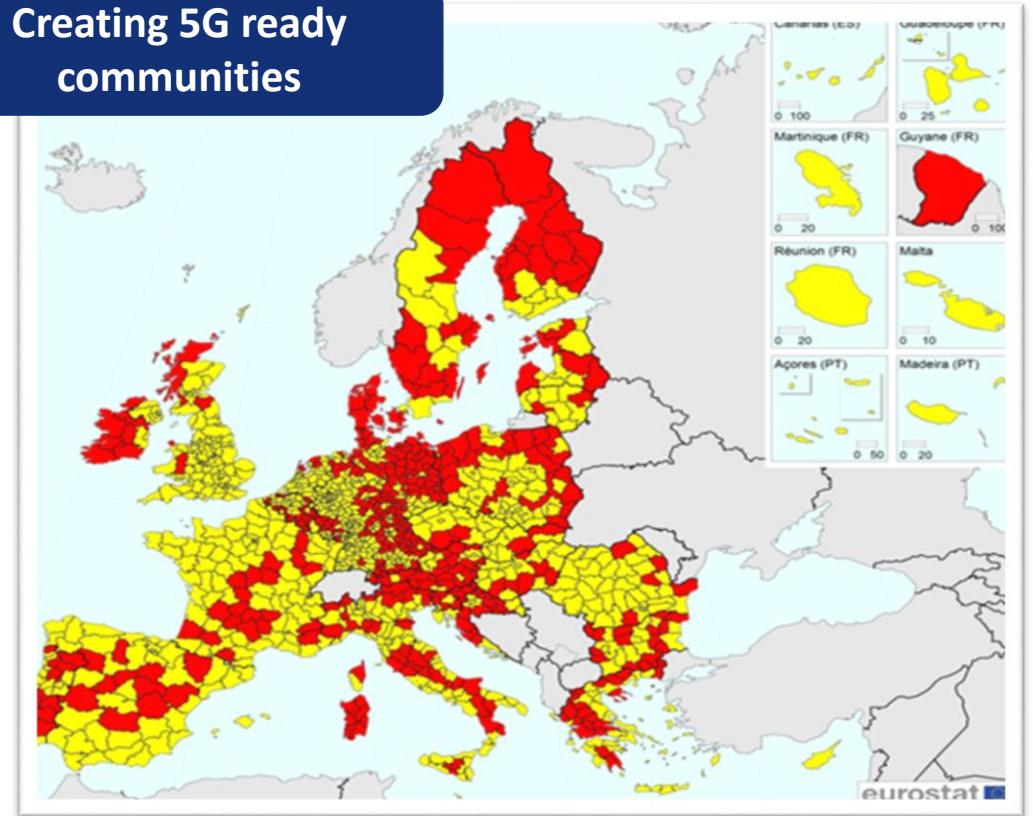
# 5G ready communities in Europe

- **VHC (including 5G) connectivity to as many socio-economic drivers as possible**
- **Maximising number of household coverage in the surrounding areas**

- Boost use of online services + 5G use cases
- Reduce digital divides
- Maximising the reach of private investments

- Complementarity with Digital Europe Programme
- Delineation from structural funds and InvestEU

## Creating 5G ready communities



# Next generation WiFi4EU & 5G Synergy Projects

Next generation “WiFi4EU”

and/or

5G+ communities

- Synergies with SED connectivity, Digital Europe Programme (5G vertical use cases)
- Synergies within CEF (e.g. for urban transport, smart electricity, etc.)

Possibilities for smart cities, designation of 5G cities according to 5G Action Plan

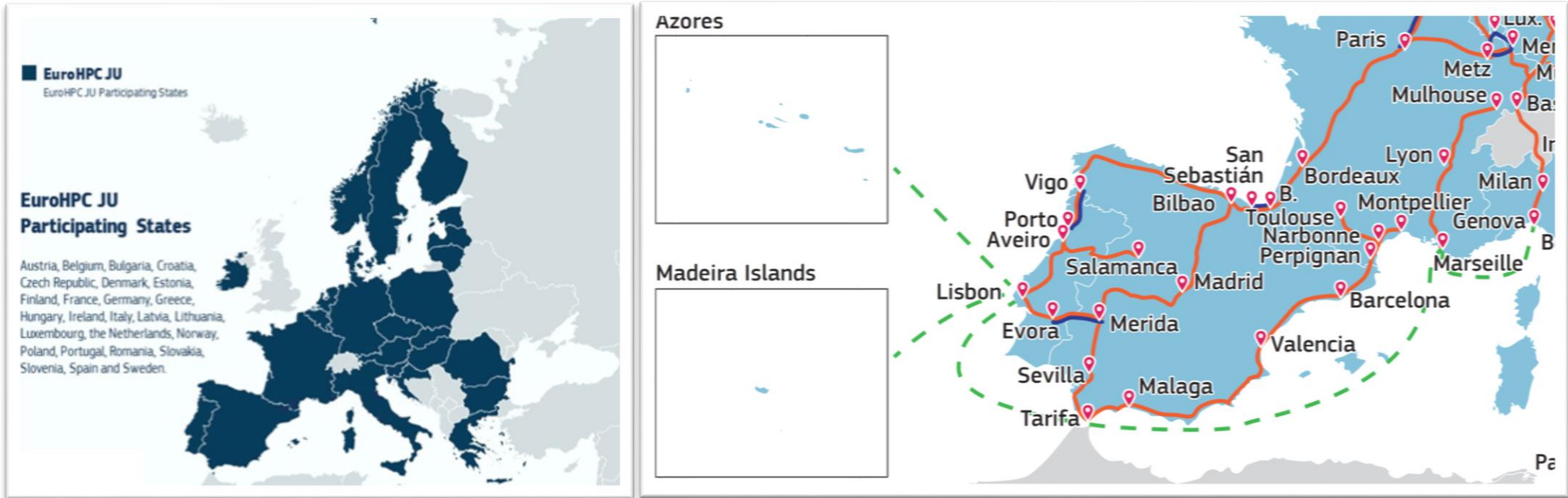
Simplified grants (vouchers, unit costs) for communities w/o vouchers and/or committing to operate 5g ready small cells

## Policy objectives:

- **Option A:** Increase number of public WiFi4EU networks (continuation of **Wi-Fi router** voucher programme)  
*and/or*
- **Option B:** Fund deployment of **5G “smart” cells** to support 5G communities applications, but which are also capable to expand the “free of charge” WiFi4EU network in Europe

# Key backbone connectivity

Increasing capacity & resilience of backbone networks of strategic importance  
(intra-EU or international links)



# Cross-border HPC connectivity

Terabit links making high performance computing (HPC) available throughout Europe, including industry



Cooperation / Partners (TBC)

- Geant
- EuroHPC JU
- Network providers

Possible projects: links to e.g. Digital Innovation Hubs; to HPCs (i.e. also commercial connectivity)



# Key international backbone connectivity

## Increasing capacity & resilience of connections to EU islands or between EU and external hubs

Prospective beneficiaries: submarine cable consortia foreseeable, with MS backing

Possible projects: Azores-Madeira-PT, MT- Sicily, FI to Asia (Northeast Passage), Lisbon-Marseille-Milan, etc.

Possible eligibility & selection criteria: market failure, (required) increased capacity and resilience, security, other qualitative connectivity improvements



# Synergies: Transport – Energy – Digital

**Decarbonisation and digitalisation of the Union economy implies a growing need for synergy between transport, energy and digital sectors**

- ✓ **"operational digital platforms"** which support the flow, storage, processing and analysis of transport and/or energy infrastructure data can be funded under CEF DIGITAL
- ✓ Possibility to adopt **joint work programmes** on specific topics (e.g. Connected and Automated Mobility)
- ✓ The **higher co-funding rate** of the sectors concerned could be applied, which **may in addition be increased by 10%**
- ✓ For each sector **synergetic elements** pertaining to another sector could be eligible up to 20% of the total eligible cost (e.g. fibre deployment or energy regeneration within a transport project)

# Operational Digital Platforms

## Definition (Art 2(l))

(l) "operational digital **platforms directly associated with transport and energy infrastructure**" means physical and virtual information communication technology ("ICT") resources, operating on top of the communication infrastructure, which support the flow, storage, processing and analysis of transport and/or energy infrastructure data;

## Eligible actions (Art. 9.4):

(f) actions implementing **digital connectivity infrastructure requirements related to cross-border projects** in the areas of transport or energy and/or supporting operational digital platforms directly associated to transport or energy infrastructures.

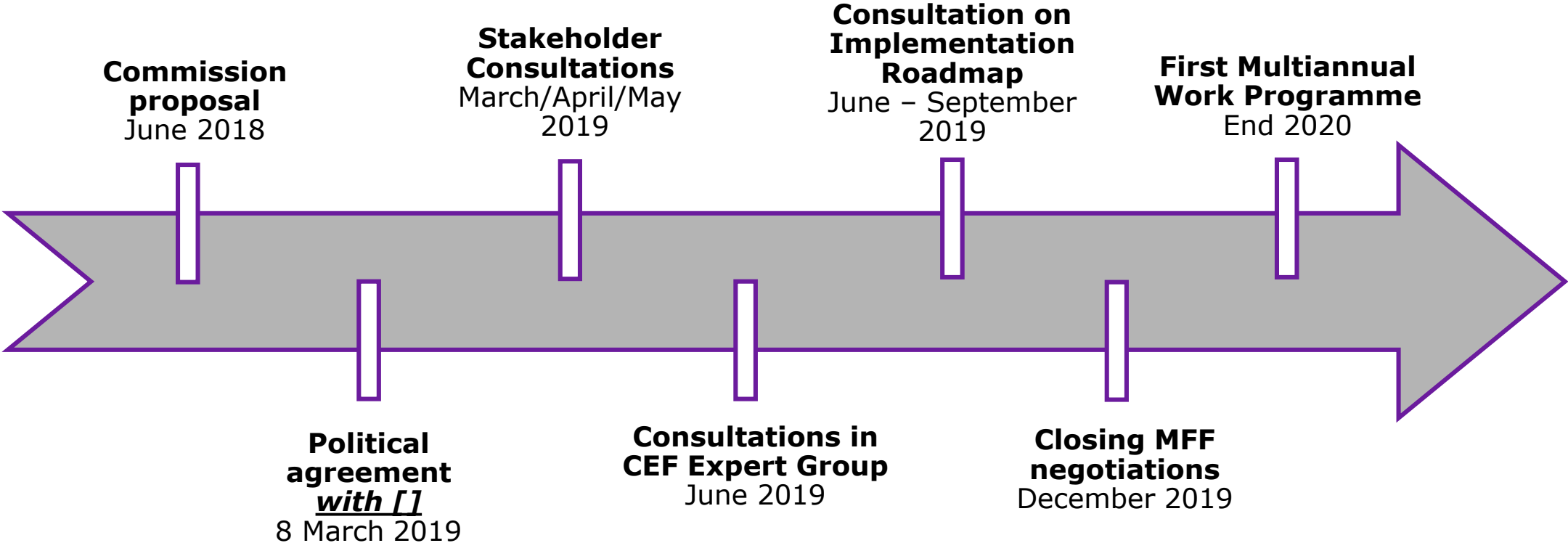
## Prioritisation of actions (Art. 8.3.):

(f) with regard to projects deploying operational digital platforms, priority shall be given to actions based on **state-of-the-art technologies, taking into account aspects such as interoperability, cybersecurity, data privacy and re-use.**

## Policy objectives:

- Operational digital platform for Connected and Automated Mobility (CAM) services to be available along all EU 5G corridors.
- Operational digital platforms for 5G along rail and/or inland waterways

# CEF DIGITAL 2021-2027 - Timeline



*#CEF2digital*



**Thank you for your interest!**

*To be continued...*

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*#CEF2digital*



# Voluntary transfers of structural funds to CEF Digital

Discussion still open, co-legislators have two different approaches

## European Parliament

text of Article 4(9) as voted by ITRE & TRAN on 25/03/2019

*Resources allocated to a Member State under shared management may, at its request, and in accordance with the relevant managing Authority be transferred to the Programme, **in order for them to be used as part of a blending operation or synergy with other Union programmes action included in a proposal submitted by the Member State concerned and declared eligible by the Commission under a work programme procedure.** The Commission shall implement those resources directly in accordance with [point (a) of Article 62(1)] of the Financial Regulation or indirectly in accordance with point (c) of that Article.*

## Council

text of Article 4(9) and Article 4(10 new) as agreed in COREPER on 13/03/2019

*[9. Resources allocated to Member States under shared management may, at their request, be transferred to the Programme. The Commission shall implement those resources directly in accordance with [point (a) of Article 62(1)] of the Financial Regulation or indirectly in accordance with point (c) of that Article. **Those resources shall be used for the benefit of the Member State concerned.**]*

*[10. (new) Without prejudice to Article 4 paragraph 9, in the digital sector, resources allocated to **Member States** under shared management may, **at their request, be transferred to the Programme, including to complement the funding of eligible actions under Article 9 paragraph 4 up to 100% of the total eligible cost where possible,** without prejudice to the co-financing principle laid in Article 190 of the Financial Regulation and to the State Aid Rules. Those resources shall be used for the benefit of the Member State concerned only. ]*

# More Information

**For info or further questions on this seminar and the activities of the JASPERS Networking Platform, please contact the JASPERS Networking and Competence Centre at the following email:**

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**JASPERS Networking Platform:**

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**JASPERS Website:**

**[jaspers.eib.org](http://jaspers.eib.org)**

