

Capacity-Building programme supporting the EU Ports Strategy for small and medium-sized TEN-T ports

Kick Off Webinar: Strategic Vision, Funding Opportunities, CEF Readiness and EIB Project Preparation

Date: 24 June 2026, from 09:00 to 13:00 CEST

Location: Virtual meeting - WebEx Events

The EIB through the JASPERS mandates provides independent advice and capacity building support to beneficiary countries to help prepare and assess high quality projects to be co-financed by EU Structural and Cohesion Funds (including Just Transition Fund) and by the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), by the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPAI) and the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF), the Ukraine Facility and the Neighbourhood Investment Platform (NIP).

In the current programming period EIB JASPERS has an increased focus on knowledge sharing and on strengthening the capacities of public administrations and project promoters involved in the preparation and implementation of EU-funded programmes and projects.

The [EIB Advisory/JASPERS Networking Platform](#) was created to complement project advisory operations by implementing knowledge sharing and capacity building activities, as well as fostering dissemination of good practices and exchange of experiences.

Description of the Webinar

EU ports are central to Europe's competitiveness, resilience, decarbonisation and its strategic autonomy agenda. They are increasingly expected to deliver seamless multimodal connectivity while advancing the green and energy transition.

In line with the priorities recently defined in the EU Ports Strategy, the European Investment Bank (EIB), through its advisory arm, and the European Commission are launching **a new technical training programme under the JASPERS mandate**, making a concrete step in strengthening EU's strategic port infrastructure. This new technical training programme is designed to reach a broad audience of small and medium-sized ports on the trans-European transport (TEN-T) network, aiming to enhance their capacity to prepare high-quality, technically robust, and economically sound investment projects.

The initiative, which will consist of **a cycle of 7 dedicated webinars that will be delivered on a monthly basis**, specifically seeks to ensure that projects are prepared in line with EU standards and policy objectives such as sustainability, resilience, digitalisation, and improved connectivity.

This kick-off webinar will provide details on the technical training programme and will present the strategic vision for the future of EU ports set within the broader EU policy framework. It will focus particularly on the identification and development of port investment priorities into sound and bankable projects.

Additionally, registered participants will have the opportunity to request dedicated Flash Project Screening sessions in an individual one-to-one meeting with EIB experts to discuss early-stage project concepts and identify next steps for project development in individual one-to-one meetings with EIB experts.

The webinar is intended for TEN-T ports authorities, municipalities, line ministries, regional and local authorities, and project beneficiaries planning to develop EU/EIB-funded port projects under the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework and beyond.

The event will be held in English. Participants will be invited to engage during the Q&A sessions and to share their needs for further advisory and capacity-building support in this area.

Participants are invited to register and submit questions in advance through the [pre-event questionnaire](#). Inputs received will help to inform the discussions during the Q&A sessions and the final roundtable. This questionnaire will also include a field for interested stakeholders to flag their interest in attending an individual meeting with EIB experts "Flash Project Screening" session.

FINAL AGENDA

09:00 09:15	Welcome and opening remarks Massimo Marra, Lead Advisor, JASPERS Mandate and Capacity Building Coordinator, EIB/JASPERS Max Jensen, Director EIB Mobility Inge Vermeersch, Head of Division Air and Waterborne Infrastructure EIB; Introduction of series of seminars
09:15 09:45	EU Strategic Vision for Ports: Competitiveness, Resilience, Sustainability Thorsten Klimke, Head of Unit D.3 - DG MOVE
9:45 - 10:15	CEF for Ports: framework and Reflow Call opportunities, Future of CEF beyond the current programming period Philippe Chantraine, Head of Unit B.2 - DG MOVE Marija Janeva, CEF project Management Coordinator – Maritime sector, CINEA
10:15 11:00	How to prepare a successful CEF application EIB Advisory – Lothar Zeller
11:00 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 12:00	EIB Advisory Services for port investments EIB Advisory – Fernando Crespo, Aris Pantelias and Lorenzo Martelli
12:00 12:45	EIB due diligence and project-appraisal requirements EIB Advisory and Lending - José Rino and Raquel Fernandez Perez
12:45 13:00	Q&A and closing Inge Vermeersch, Head of Division Air and Waterborne Infrastructure EIB

USEFUL RESOURCES

Participants may wish to consult the following optional pre-reading materials, which provide useful background on the EU policy framework for ports, the TEN-T context, relevant funding instruments (including CEF) and key considerations for project preparation.

1. EU policy and strategy context for ports

- **[European Commission – EU Ports Strategy and Industrial Maritime Strategy \(DG MOVE\)](#)** (DG MOVE page)
Overview of the Commission’s vision and actions to strengthen the competitiveness, resilience, security and sustainability of EU ports and the wider maritime industrial ecosystem.
- **[TEN-T Regulation \(EU\) 2024/1679 – EU guidelines for the trans-European transport network](#)** (EUR-Lex, Official Journal)
Key reference for the role of maritime and inland ports as multimodal nodes and for requirements and timelines across the core, extended core and comprehensive TEN-T networks.
- **[Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation \(AFIR\) – Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1804](#)** (EUR-Lex, Official Journal)

Relevant for port authorities and project promoters implementing shore-side electricity and alternative fuels infrastructure in TEN-T ports.

2. Funding opportunities: Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) and related instruments

- **[European Commission – Connecting Europe Facility \(CEF\)](#)** (EC CEF overview)
Programme overview and reference information on CEF Transport priorities, eligibility and implementation modalities.
- **[CINEA – CEF Transport calls for proposals \(ports, multimodal nodes and associated infrastructure\)](#)** (CINEA call page)
Call documentation, work programmes and guidance for applicants (including maritime and inland port topics under the TEN-T policy).
- **[ESPO – priorities and investment pipeline for European ports](#)** (ESPO publications)
Port sector priorities and investment needs, including drivers for energy transition, sustainability and connectivity projects.

3. Project preparation and appraisal (EIB / EIB Advisory)

- **[EIB – The Economic Appraisal of Investment Projects \(2nd edition\)](#)** (EIB PDF)
Reference guidance on how the EIB assesses project value, including socio-economic cost benefit considerations relevant for major infrastructure investments.
- **[EIB project appraisal typical due diligence areas for infrastructure projects](#)** (EIB project cycle overview)
Overview of the project dimensions commonly assessed (technical, environmental and



social, financial, economic and procurement aspects) when preparing investments for financing.

4. Enabling policies for port decarbonisation and connectivity

- **Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR) shore-side electricity and port energy infrastructure requirements**
Policy context for OPS deployment, grid connections and alternative fuels infrastructure in TEN-T ports, relevant for investment planning and project design.
- **TEN-T and CEF alignment for port investments**
Ensure proposed port projects are consistent with TEN-T requirements and priorities and are positioned to demonstrate EU added value under relevant funding instruments.