

Connecting Europe Facility Transport Call 2023

Application, evaluation and award process

Flanders Info Day, 16 October 2023

CINEA

Agenda

- Introduction
- The application process in eGrants
- The evaluation process and award criteria
- CBA

CINEA in a nutshell



~ **58 billion** for the period 2021-2027



> **500 staff** by 2027



6000+ projects currently managed by the Agency

- **Policy feedback** as an essential part of funding activities
- **Expertise** at the service of **beneficiaries** in managing the complete lifecycle of projects
- Exploitation of **synergies** and dynamic ways to work **across programmes**

Timetable and deadlines

Timetable and deadlines (indicative)

Call opening	26 September 2023
Deadline for submission	30 January 2024 (17:00 CET)
Evaluation	February – May 2024
Information to successful and unsuccessful applicants	July 2023
GA signature	September / October 2024

Funding & tender opportunities portal

European Commission | Funding & tender opportunities | Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)

SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS | HOW TO PARTICIPATE | PROJECTS & RESULTS | WORK AS AN EXPERT | SUPPORT

Data management of the organizations, search functions under the 'My organisations' tab and adding new organizations to proposals may not be available today **Thursday 30/06/2022 from 17:15 to 18:15 (CET)**, while system maintenance is being performed.

Find calls for proposals and tenders

Search calls for proposals and tenders by keywords, programmes...

EU Programmes

Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)	Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI)	Customs Control Equipment Instrument (CCEI)	Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)	Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV)	Creative Europe (CREA)
Customs Programme (CUST)	Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)	Europe Direct (ED)	European Defence Fund (EDF)	European Parliament (EP)	EU Anti-fraud Programme (EUAF)
European Solidarity Corps (ESC)	Erasmus+ Programme (ERASMUS)	EU4Health Programme (EU4H)	European Social Fund + (ESF)	European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)	Euratom Research and Training Programme (EURATOM)
Fiscalis Programme (FISC)	Innovation Fund (INNOVFUND)	Internal Security Fund (ISF)	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Single Market Programme (SMP)	Social Prerogative and Specific Competencies Lines (SOCPL)

News

Information Session on the call for proposals campaigns on the risks of irregular migration AMIF-2022-TF1-AG-INFO

Recording of the information session for the call: Informe risks of irregular migration in third countries and within...

20 May, 2022

The amendment to the Horizon Europe Work

The Commission adopted this amendment on 10 May 2022. Updates to calls for proposals and topics are available...

18 May, 2022

We need your feedback to improve the Portal

The team behind the Portal wants to know your opinion. Let us shape a better service together!

Events

Evaluation process

CEF Transport - Evaluation process



1. Admissibility check

Admissible proposal (section 5 of call document):

- It is electronically submitted on time,
- It contains the forms provided inside the Submission System, and
- It is complete:
 - Application Form Part A** — contains administrative information about the participants and the summarised budget for the project (to be filled in directly online)
 - Application Form Part B** — contains the technical description of the project (to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded)
- Mandatory Annexes**

Mandatory annexes

- ❑ **Agreement by the concerned Member States** (benefitting from the project) – for all applications
- ❑ **Detailed budget table per Work Package and calculator**– for all applications
- ❑ **Timetable/Gantt chart** – for all applications
- ❑ **Environmental compliance file** - for all applications except ERTMS i.e. for works and for studies with physical interventions and for studies without physical intervention (see FAQ #18080)
- ❑ **Activity reports of last year** and **List of previous projects** (key projects for the last 4 years) (template available in Part B) - except exempted from operational capacity check: Public bodies, Member State organisations, international organisations, and beneficiaries of grants under CEF 1 and 2.
- ❑ **Full cost-benefit analysis (CBA) report** and **CBA cash flow template** - only for works or mixed projects with a budget (eligible costs) above EUR 10 million
- ❑ **Simplified CBA calculator** – only for works or mixed projects with a budget (eligible costs) below EUR 10 million

Lessons learnt from the Admissibility check under 2021 calls

- ❑ Incomplete application forms:
 - ❑ No grant amount requested in part A of the AF, wrong **budget** uploaded not corresponding to requested amount in SEP
 - ❑ **MS Agreement** not signed; agreements from other concerned MS (benefiting from the project) missing
 - ❑ **CBA report** referring to another proposal, CBA report is an empty document, missing **Cash Flow template** or **Simplified CBA Calculator**,
 - ❑ Missing **activity report of last year** (private bodies),
 - ❑ Incorrect **Gantt chart** referring to a project other than the submitted proposal
 - ❑ Missing and/or incomplete **Environmental Compliance File**: e.g. not duly signed, dated and stamped declarations by the competent authority for NATURA 2000 and Water Framework Directive

2. Eligibility check

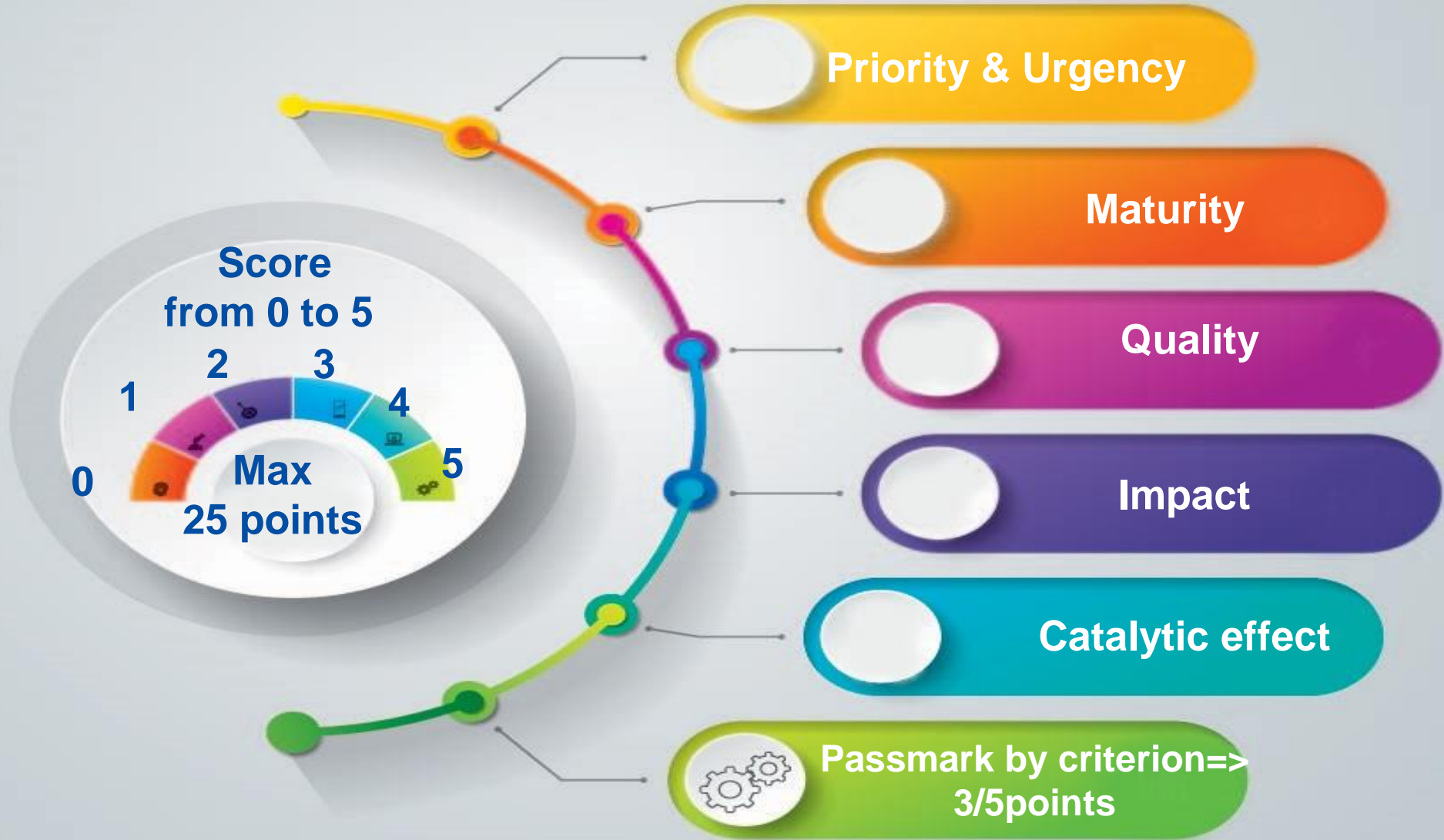
Eligible proposal (section 6 of call document):

- Submitted by **applicants** who are legal entities (public or private bodies) established in the EU Member States (for the General calls) and established in one of the Member States eligible for funding from the Cohesion Fund (for the Cohesion calls);
- The **activities** proposed are within the technical scope of the topic described in section 2 of call document;
- The **geographic location** of the project is on the TEN-T network (core and/or comprehensive)
- The **duration of the project** for works or mixed projects should be 4-5 years maximum, and for studies projects it should be 2-3 years maximum.
 - The earliest starting date may be the proposal submission
 - The end date cannot be later than 31/12/2028
- Any **budget** requested is admitted – but recommended to be min EUR 1 million of EU contribution requested.

Lessons learnt from the previous Eligibility checks

- ❑ Proposal submitted by an applicant from a non-eligible country
- ❑ Location of the proposal - **not on or connected to the TEN-T network**
- ❑ **Project's start date** in parts A and B of AF - in different times
- ❑ **Project duration** wrongly calculated
- ❑ Project proposal being '**out of scope**' under the topic submitted
- ❑ **Project proposal** and the Global Project - **insufficiently clear**

3. Evaluation - Award criteria



Priority & Urgency

- ❑ **Contribution to the TEN-T network:** (i) core or comprehensive, (ii) on a CB link as listed in part III of Annex to CEF Regulation,(iii) contribution to the corridor work plans and (iv) any network effect by developing or modernising the network.
- ❑ **Relevance:** if the proposal addresses the Work Programme 2021-2027, Call, and/or Topic objectives
- ❑ **EU added-value:** the proposal addresses (i) EU objectives (Green Deal, Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy) and (ii) if the project improves significantly the transport connections between the Member States in efficiency, sustainability, competitiveness or cohesion – in addition to the benefits at national/regional/local level.
- ❑ **Synergies** with other CEF sectors (Energy, Digital), EU programmes (e.g. RRF, Horizon Europe) **Synergetic elements** may apply for work proposals only if they:
 - relate to another CEF sector,
 - do not exceed 20% of the total eligible costs, and
 - significantly improve the socioeconomic, climate and environmental benefits of the project
- ❑ Taking into account the EU policy urgencies created by:
 - ❑ the EU new situation created by **the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine**,
 - ❑ the Action plan on **Solidarity Lanes** of 12 May 2022 (COM/2022/217/Final)
 - ❑ the EU mission on the “**100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities**”.

Maturity

- ❑ **Readiness/ability of the project to start** by the proposed start date and to complete by the proposed end date (technical maturity – under responsibility of the applicants),
- ❑ **Status of the necessary contracting procedures and permits** (procedural maturity – beyond the remit of the applicant),
- ❑ **Financial availability needed to complement the CEF investment** (financial maturity – funds needed for completing the project), and
- ❑ **Correspondence** between the **technical planning and financial profile**.
- ❑ **Works/mixed proposals** must have completed two **key steps of the environmental impact assessment by the date of application**: an EIA report prepared by the project promoter and consultations carried out under the EIA Directive, to be followed by the development consent procedure that may be completed after the submission of the CEF application

Quality

The **quality of the application** : Part A, Part B and the mandatory annexes submitted, including the environmental documents (ECF).

The **operational capacity check of the applicants**: Competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams mainly for new private entities to CEF – based on the list of previous projects and the activity report of the last year

The **quality of the proposed project – based on:**

- The **implementation plan proposed**, from technical (Work Packages well structured) and financial (cost effective) point of view,
- Design approach, the **organisational structures** (project management) put in place (or foreseen) for the implementation,
- Risk analysis/management**, the **control and quality procedures**,
- Communication** strategy to provide visibility to **CEF funding**,
- Sustainability** and **maintenance** strategy for the completed project (for works)

Impact

- ❑ **Demand/traffic forecast study** – is the works project based on similar study ?
- ❑ **Socio-economic impact of the project**
 - Describe the socio-economic impact of the project – leading (or not) to a project being economically viable
- ❑ Other impacts on **congestion, modal split, safety and security, service quality, and noise emissions**
- ❑ For studies proposals, under the section Decision-making tool: contribution of the study to preparing the overall project implementation, for instance, further steps in the project development
- ❑ Effects on the **interoperability** of the transport systems/modes and territorial **accessibility** in the TEN-T network (i.e. the cross-border dimension), **innovation and digitalisation, competition, regional and local development and land use, and outermost regions** when applicable.

Catalytic effect

- **Catalytic effect** looks into how the CEF funding will facilitate or accelerate the project - in comparison to a situation without the CEF funding.

Three main elements that the CEF funding may influence the realisation of the project:

- 1. Overcoming a funding gap** (or negative Financial Net Present Value - FNPV) of the project – due to insufficient financial viability, high upfront costs or lack of market funding
- 2. Financial leverage on additional investments:** capacity of the CEF grant to trigger differentiated public or private investments, and accelerating the overall investment plan
- 3. Enabling effect of the CEF grant on the commitment/acceptance of stakeholders towards the project** – due to, among other reasons, improved quality of the project implementation by enhancing the technical parameters.

Lessons learnt from the evaluation of proposals under previous calls

❑ Low quality of the description of proposals:

- ❑ Work packages detailed unclearly – with insufficient number of milestones and unclear deliverables
- ❑ Work packages covering several distinct tasks – with no costs broken down (per task)
- ❑ Limited risk analysis with incomplete mitigation measures
- ❑ Communication tasks described too vaguely
- ❑ Project impact (fields 4.1 Demand/traffic forecast study, 4.2 Economic analysis and 4.3 Social, environmental and other impacts of section 4 of the application form Part B) not filled in/sufficiently explained

Budget requirements for proposals

1. **Budget** in Part A of the SEP submission

&

2. **Detailed budget table per work package:** Excel file uploaded as mandatory annex for all cost applications, **or**

3. **Calculator for unit contributions:** Excel file uploaded as mandatory annex for ERTMS applications

Example 1: Budget for Works/Mixed submissions

30% Funding Rate

30% Funding Rate
 50% Funding rate for cross border links
 85% Funding rate for railway links between cohesion countries

Application forms

Proposal ID **SEP-210784515**

Acronym ██████████

3 - Budget

If your proposal fulfils the criteria specified in the call documents, you can select below a different reimbursement rate (the standard rate is selected by default):

30% Funding Rate
▼

?

Possible higher funding rate for (only) works under certain conditions: see the call texts

No.	Name of beneficiary	Country	Role	Personnel costs - without volunteers /EUR	Subcontracting costs/EUR	Purchase costs - Travel and subsistence/ EUR	Purchase costs - Equipment/ EUR	Purchase costs - Other goods, works and services/ EUR	Financial support to third parties/ EUR	Studies/ EUR	Synergetic elements/ EUR	Works in outermost regions/ EUR	Land purchases/ EUR	Indirect costs/EUR	Total eligible costs/EUR	Ineligible costs/EUR	Total estimated project costs and contributions/EUR	Funding rate	Maximum EU contribution to eligible costs/EUR	Requested EU contribution to eligible costs/EUR	Max grant amount/ EUR	Income generated by the project/ EUR	In kind contributions/EUR	Financial contributions/EUR	Own resources/ EUR	Total estimated project income/ EUR
										Special Funding rate 50	Special Funding rate 70															
1	Charalampos Xenogiannis	BE	Coordinator	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0,00	0	0	50	0,00	0,00	0,00	0	0	0	0	0,00
Total				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0,00	0	0	50	0,00	0,00	0,00	0	0	0	0	0,00

Example 2: Budget for Studies only proposals (except NewTech) under a Works & Mixed topic

Application forms

Proposal ID SEP-210784515

Acronym ██████████

3 - Budget

?

If your proposal fulfils the criteria specified in the call documents, you can select below a different reimbursement rate (the standard rate is selected by default):

30% Funding Rate ▼

No.	Name of beneficiary	Country	Role	Personnel costs - without volunteers /EUR	Subcontracting costs/EUR	Purchase costs - Travel and subsistence/ EUR	Purchase costs - Equipment/ EUR	Purchase costs - Other goods, works and services/ EUR	Financial support to third parties/ EUR	Studies/ EUR	Synergetic elements/ EUR	Works in outermost regions/ EUR	Land purchases/ EUR	Indirect costs/EUR	Total eligible costs/EUR	Ineligible costs/EUR	Total estimated project costs and contributions/EUR	Funding rate	Maximum EU contribution on to eligible costs/EUR	Requested EU contribution on to eligible costs/EUR	Max grant amount/ EUR	Income generated by the project/ EUR	In kind contributions/EUR	Financial contributions/EUR	Own resources/ EUR	Total estimated project income/ EUR		
										Special Funding rate 50 -		Special Funding rate 70																
1	Charalampos Xenogiannis	BE	Coordinator											0,00	0,00		0	50	0,00		0,00							0,00
Total				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0,00	0	0	50	0,00	0,00	0,00	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	

Study proposals should fully be recorded in Studies Box

Budget requirements for proposals

1.

START (BUDGET FORECAST PER WP)	
PROJECT DATA	
Project number:	
Project acronym:	

2.

Work package name	Funding Rate
WP name 1	0%
WP name 2	0%
WP name 3	0%
WP name 4	0%

3.

Participant name
Participant name1
Participant name2

4.

DETAILED BUDGET TABLE PER WP									
PROJECT DATA									
Project number:		0							
Project acronym:		0							
BUDGET BREAKDOWN PER WORK PACKAGE AND PARTICIPANT									
<i>Reporting period can be added/deleted as needed</i>									
Work Package	Participant	Reporting period 1	Reporting period 2	Reporting period 3	Reporting period 4	Reporting period 5	Total costs	Funding rate (for work package)	EU contribution
WP name 1	Participant name1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00
WP name 1	Participant name2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00
WP name 2	Participant name1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00
WP name 3	Participant name1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00
WP name 4	Participant name1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00
Total		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00

5.

#	EU CONTRIBUTION	TOTAL COSTS
ENCODE VALUE FROM EGRANTS	0	0
DIFFERENCE	0	0

The socio-economic assessment

CBA Requirement

- The requirement for socio economic assessment has been streamlined in this programming period to take account of the added value of the tool for each priority
- There are now three levels of granularity of information
 - Full CBA
 - Simplified CBA
 - For some categories no CBA is required
- No more Cost Effectiveness Analysis (CEA)

Full CBA

- For **works and mixed projects** with budget (total eligible costs) **above EUR 10 million**. In mixed proposals, the threshold of EUR 10 million applies to the work component(s) of the eligible costs.
- As for the previous programming period, “full CBA” is composed of:
 - a standalone text document, with a minimum length of 20 pages, and
 - the CBA Cash Flow template filled in to present the results of the CBA in a harmonized format.

Simplified CBA

- For **works and mixed projects** with budget (total eligible costs) **below EUR 10 million**
- The simplification consists in
 - dropping the requirement for the standalone text document, and
 - replacing the CBA Cash Flow template with the simplified CBA excel calculator
- The simplified CBA calculator requires fewer inputs to produce the output indicators by automating the calculation of externalities and the monetisation of time saving.
- When a simplified CBA is required, applicants may submit a full CBA if they wish so (following full CBA requirements).

CBA requirement by priority

Work programme “Objectives”	Priorities	Requirement
6.1 Projects related to the efficient, interconnected, interoperable and multimodal networks		
	Railways	Full CBA / Simplified < 10 m€ *
	Inland waterways and inland ports	Full CBA / Simplified < 10 m€ *
	Maritime ports	Full CBA / Simplified < 10 m€ *
	Roads, rail-road terminals, connections to airports and multimodal logistics platforms	Full CBA / Simplified < 10 m€ *
6.2 Projects relating to smart, interoperable, sustainable, multimodal, inclusive, accessible, safe and secure mobility		
6.2.1 Projects related to smart and interoperable mobility	ERTMS	No CBA
	REMIB	No CBA
	ITS, eFTI, data	No CBA
	RIS, EMSWe, VTMISS	No CBA
	SESAR (all topics)	No CBA
	Newtech	No CBA
6.2.2 Projects related to sustainable and multimodal mobility	Alternative fuels infrastructure	Implementing Partner: No CBA Others: Simplified CBA
	Motorways of the Seas	Full CBA / Simplified < 10 m€ *
	Multimodal passenger hubs	Full CBA / Simplified < 10 m€ *
6.2.3 Projects related to safe and secure mobility	Safe and secure parking infrastructure	Full CBA / Simplified < 10 m€ *
	Road safety	Full CBA / Simplified < 10 m€ *
	Projects improving transport infrastructure resilience	Full CBA / Simplified < 10 m€ *
	External border checks	Full CBA / Simplified < 10 m€ *
6.3 Military mobility		
	Military mobility	No CBA

Grandfathering

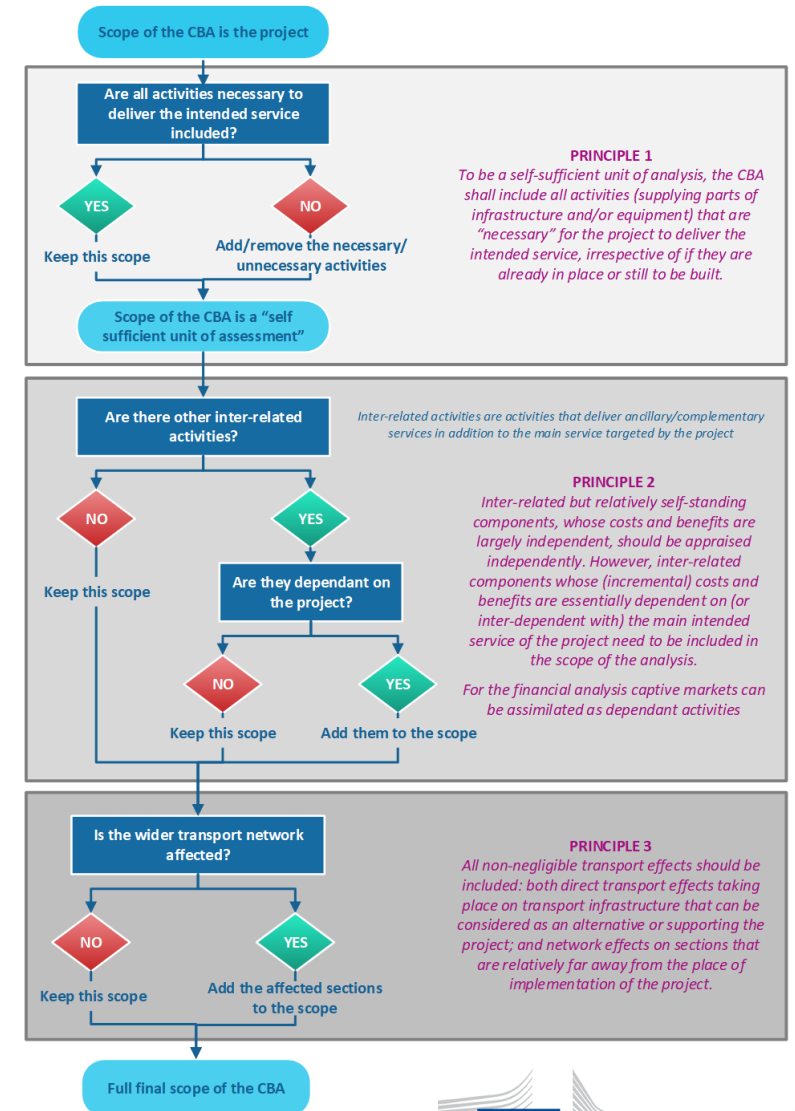
- Applications relating to a new phase of a project under construction and already supported by CEF may re-submit the CBA originally submitted if
 - the new project was already included in the scope of the original CBA
 - no significant changes have occurred (nature, scale and scope of the project or its context/background) that may impair the value of the original CBA (e.g. new competition, technological breakthrough, new normative constraint, social conditions, uses and customs).
- If applicants decide to re-submit the original CBA they must confirm that these two conditions are met and explain their arguments in Application Form part B section 4.2 also indicating to reference/code of the original proposal.

Note on Scope of Socio-Economic Assessment

Three principal steps to undertake in order to determine the correct scope of the CBA:

- All "necessary" components are added (unnecessary ones are removed)
- All inter-related dependant activities are added
- Effects on the wider transport network are added

(CINEA Guide, p. 24)



CEF Transport FAQs

- General FAQ can be searched with the term 'CEF Transport' in the FAQs and exported into a dataset

The screenshot displays the European Commission's 'Funding & tender opportunities' portal. The header includes the European Commission logo, the text 'Funding & tender opportunities Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)', and language options for English, Register, and Login. A navigation menu is visible with options like 'SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS', 'HOW TO PARTICIPATE', 'PROJECTS & RESULTS', 'WORK AS AN EXPERT', and 'SUPPORT'. The 'SUPPORT' menu is expanded, showing 'Support overview', 'Guidance & Manuals', 'FAQ', 'Helpdesk & Support Services', and 'Support videos'. The main content area is titled 'FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions (533)' and features a search bar with 'CEF Transport' entered. Filter options include 'Match whole words only', 'Grants', and 'Tenders'. The main text explains that these pages are updated with answers to frequent questions and provides instructions on when to ask questions. A list of FAQs is shown, with the first one highlighted: 'Under CEF Transport Military Mobility Call, are ERTMS deployment, recharging infrastructure and retrofitting rail freight (noisy) wagons eligible?'. The footer contains the URL 'https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/faq', copyright information '© 2018 European Commission', and links for 'About', 'Free text search', 'IT Helpdesk', 'Cookies', 'Legal Notice', and 'APIs'.

Need help?

- Online Manual: Step-by-step online guidance
- GIS User Guide: Step-by-step GIS guidance
- IT-How-to: IT guidance with screenshots
- IT helpdesk: Contact the IT helpdesk for questions such as forgotten passwords, access rights, technical aspects of submission of proposals, etc.
- FAQ related to the 'submission of proposals' process
- Call related questions: CINEA-CEF-TRANSPORT-CALLS@ec.europa.eu
- Service desk: EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu

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Thank you



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