EU funding tracking record document

- to identify potential streams for NMCAs –

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1 Introduction

EuroGeographics provides a fully integrated tracking and evaluation service for members. This includes routine weekly and monthly reports, as well as exceptional reports and alerts when appropriate. Funding opportunities are high on the list of members' interests.

We are aware that the Commission has ultimate political responsibility for ensuring that all money from the EU budget is spent correctly. Current and near future EU funding trends are explicitly targeted to specific beneficiaries and cover a multitude of themes deriving from Treaties.

Unlike environment, energy, space, transport, agriculture – the EU core competences, geospatial information is not mentioned within the Treaties. This offers the opportunity to track and identify a home for geospatial policy which reflects its integration in all areas of Commission activity.

Funding eligibility could be estimated through two interweaving aspects: beneficiary status and subject matter/themes which create our operating arena. Members' subject matter is both infrastructure and content. We might expect more success funding infrastructure, the building blocks, and less success at funding content, often the property and responsibility of national bodies and, as already mentioned, not being a core competence.

2 Commission's classification of beneficiaries

Who can apply for funding is titled and categorised by the Commission.

2.1 Small and medium-sized business

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can obtain EU funding in the form of grants, loans and, in some cases, guarantees. They can also win contracts to provide various goods or services. The aim is to support entrepreneurs and promote better conditions for business creation and growth, e.g. COSME a new specific programme aims to improve SMEs' access to finance and markets and to support entrepreneurs.

2.2 NGOs

Non-governmental and civil society organisations (NGOs) are also eligible for EU funding as their areas of activity relate to a number of EU policies such as: social inclusion, gender equality and equal opportunities (may benefit from ESF); The Creative Europe programme, which is managed by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA); Europe for Citizens; International cooperation and development (DEVCO);   Horizon 2020; Transport, energy and ICT - some funding areas of the CEF are open to NGOs.

Potential applicants should check the eligibility criteria set out in each call for proposals as they may vary from one sub-programme to another, but first of all they should meet NGOs general principles stipulated by Regulation such as:

> ➢ NGOs are not created to generate personal profit. Although they may have paid employees and engage in revenue-generating activities they do not distribute profits or surpluses to members or management;

- NGOs are created on voluntary basis. This means that they are formed voluntarily and that there is usually an element of voluntary participation in the organisation;
- NGOs are distinguished from informal or ad hoc groups by having some degree of formal or institutional existence. Usually, NGOs have formal statutes or other governing document setting out their mission, objectives and scope. They are accountable to their members and donors;
- NGOs are independent, in particular of government and other public authorities, and of political parties or commercial organisations;
- NGOs are not self-serving in aims and related values. Their aim is to act in the public arena at large, on concerns and issues related to the wellbeing of people, specific groups of people or society as a whole. They are not pursuing the commercial or professional interests of their members.

2.3 Young people

The EU budget includes specific programmes for young Europeans. It aims to boost young people's skills and employability and to modernise education, training and youth work, e.g. ERASMUS.

2.4 Researchers

Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly €80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020). Funding opportunities under Horizon 2020 are set out in multi-annual work programmes which cover the large majority of support available. The work programmes are prepared by the Commission within the framework provided by the Horizon 2020 legislation and through a strategic programming process integrating EU policy objectives in the priority setting. The programme is managed by the Commission via various agencies EASME, REA and INEA.

The Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA), the successor of the Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency, officially started its activities in January 2014 to implement the following EU programmes:

I. Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)
II. Parts of Horizon 2020 – e.g. Smart, green and integrated transport, the EU's €77 billion research and innovation programme for 2014-2020, in the areas of transport and energy.
III. Legacy programmes: TEN-T and Marco Polo.

> Even though targeted primarily for research and innovation, Horizon 2020 is also open **to public bodies seeking to encourage innovation and better public services.**
>
> **Local and regional authorities and certain administrative bodies may apply for projects financed under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)**

Horizon 2020 offers a large variety of funding opportunities for research and innovation activities through calls for proposals that are set out in the Horizon 2020 work programme. On the Participant Portal (PP) you can find call information under Funding opportunities. You can go directly to the

[H2020 calls](#) and filter calls that interest you in the relevant programme part. Go to [Search topics](#) to find topics that belong to open or forthcoming calls. You can search in the text of the call and topic titles, call and topic identifiers, topic description and keywords and tags related to this topic.

In Horizon 2020 there are more [opportunities for cooperation](#) with, and participation by, researchers from non-EU countries. For more extensive search in various fields of the call and topic pages, you will also find a link to the [Europa search](#) that functions and presents the results in a similar way as a Google search.

The Horizon 2020 calls for tenders are published on the [TED - Tenders Electronic Daily web site](#) which is dedicated to European public procurement and publishes calls for tenders.

2.5 Farmers

Farmers are eligible for direct support and further funding possibilities under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) - one of the original pillars of the European Community and one of the most important EU common policies. That is why traditionally it has taken the largest part of the EU's budget, on average almost 40%.

The CAP is financed by two funds which form part of the EU's general budget: The European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) primarily finances direct payments to farmers and measures regulating or supporting agricultural markets and The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) finances the EU's contribution to rural development programmes.

Funding priorities vary from one country to another according to the priorities of the country or region in question.

It is to be noted that environmental concerns are integrated into the Common Agricultural Policy with the aim to head off the risks of environmental degradation and enhancing the sustainability of agro-ecosystems. For example, "water management and use" was identified as one of three priority areas for action to protect and enhance the EU's rural heritage, together with climate change and biodiversity and the preservation.

> **If engaged in farming, a public body may be eligible for a direct payment under the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF).**

2.6 Public bodies

Public bodies can benefit from a number of EU funding opportunities, from investments to develop institutional capacity and efficiency to local infrastructure projects.

Main funding sources specifically for public bodies are:
➢ Cohesion policy
➢ European structural and Investment Funds
➢ Special technical assistance instruments i.e. JASPERS.

Cohesion is an explicit objective of the European Union. The cohesion policy (or regional policy) of the EU provides a framework for financing a wide range of projects and investments with the aim of encouraging economic growth in EU member states and their regions.

Very recently, the Council adopted conclusions on the delivery and implementation of the cohesion policy post-2020. The conclusions call for simpler rules at EU and national level, greater responsibility for the member states in the implementation process, and early preparation of the new programmes to ensure a smooth transition to the next programming period.

Regional Policy is delivered through two main funds: the [European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)](#) and the [Cohesion Fund (CF)](#) and the [European Social Fund (ESF).](#) Together with the [European Social Fund (ESF)](#), [the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)](#) and [the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)](#), they make up the [European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds](#)**.**

2.6.1 Other programmes applicable to public bodies

Public bodies can act as contracting authorities for development programmes managed by the Commission's DG for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO). DEVCO is responsible for formulating EU development policy and thematic policies to reduce global poverty, to ensure sustainable economic, social and environmental development, and to promote democracy, the rule of law, good governance and the respect of human rights, notably through external aid. Depending on the programme, such bodies can also participate in calls for proposals to receive a grant under the EU's external action.

Funding and technical assistance are available through the [Technical Assistance and Information Exchange](#) (TAIEX) instrument, Sigma and Twinning are also specifically targeted to public bodies.

TAIEX and Twinning assist Enlargement regions in transposing and implementing the EU legislation on their path to accession, and Neighbourhood ones in harmonising their laws in the framework of Cooperation and Association Agreements with the EU. On top of that, the two instruments are an excellent channel to support mutual understanding among those countries and the EU, and to encourage the fundamental reforms that are needed both in the Enlargement and Neighbourhood regions.

TAIEX is peer-to-peer assistance from EU Member States to neighbouring countries. It targets central public administrations, judiciary and law enforcement authorities, parliaments and their civil servants, representatives of social partners, trade unions and employers' associations. It provides three main types of short-term activities: study visits, expert missions or workshops (single or multi-beneficiary). It is funded from the EU budget and managed by the European Commission.

Twinning is a EU instrument for institutional cooperation between Public Administrations of EU Member States and of beneficiary or partner countries. Twinning strives to share good practices developed within the EU with beneficiary public administrations and to foster long-term relationships between administrations of existing and future EU countries.

The [Financial Instrument for the Environment](#) (LIFE) also provides a number of funding opportunities open to public bodies.*

2.7   Other beneficiaries

EU candidate countries are considered "other beneficiaries", eligible to apply for IPA II and IPARD. The [Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance](#) (IPA II) invests in the future of EU candidate countries and the EU itself by supporting reform in areas linked to the enlargement strategy, such as democracy and governance, the rule of law, growth and competitiveness. Pre-accession assistance is an investment in public administration reform, rule of law, sustainable economy, people and agriculture and rural development.

Farmers in candidate countries are helped through a specific Instrument for [Pre-Accession Assistance in Rural Development](#) (IPARD), which is part of IPA II.

3   Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) related actions in 2018

The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) supports trans- European networks and infrastructures in three sectors: transport, telecommunications and energy. The telecommunications sector of CEF has also two strands: Broadband and Digital Service Infrastructure (DSI). A significant budget is dedicated to *Digital Service Infrastructures (DSIs) delivering networked cross-border services for citizens, businesses and public administrations*.

For example, the Open European Location Services (Open ELS) project, coordinated by EuroGeographics, is co-financed by CEF. It is developing pan-European and cross-border open data services using authoritative geospatial information and designing an associated business model. In doing so, it aims to improve the availability and interoperability of open geospatial information from the public authorities responsible for mapping, cadastre and land registries.

3.1   2018 Work programme for CEF Telecommunications

The work programme for 2018 (WP2018) and financing of Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) - Telecommunications Sector have been adopted by the Commission. It outlines the general objectives and priorities for actions to be launched in 2018 and explains how these can be tangibly achieved through the selected digital service infrastructure. It defines the scope of the programme, as well as the envisaged level of funding, which will take the form of procurement, calls for proposals and other supporting actions.

DSIs to be supported by WP2018 will be selected according to their implementation needs and by considering the goal of ultimate sustainability. The DSIs that will receive funds for additional or continuation of activities in 2018 have already been supported under previous work programmes. Some activities launched in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 still need to be completed and are funded via budget committed in the respective years.

The DSIs for which funding is foreseen in 2018 are:

> ➢ Europeana and Safer Internet, which are identified as well-established in the CEF Telecom Guidelines. Funding will ensure their continued operation in accordance with these.
> ➢ Other mature DSIs: eIdentification and eSignature, eDelivery, eInvoicing, Public Open Data, Automated Translation, Cybersecurity, eProcurement, On - line Dispute Resolution (ODR), Business Registers Interconnection System (BRIS), eHealth, Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information (EESSI) and the European e - Justice portal.
> ➢ A new sector specific DSI to support P2P Mobile Payments.
> ➢ A new building block DSI, eArchiving, which has been selected jointly with Member States among a set of proposed new DSIs.

3.2 CEF background legislation

Two legal documents guide the allocation of the EU financial support in the telecommunications sector and provide information about the specific types of projects which are funded and in what amounts.

CEF Telecom Guidelines: Regulation (EU) 283/2014

In a nutshell, this Regulation lays down guidelines for the timely deployment and interoperability of projects of common interest in the field of trans-European networks in the area of telecommunications infrastructure. In particular, it provides for the objectives, the identification of projects of common interest, the criteria and priorities for funding, as well as definitions and eligibility criteria.

Projects must meet all the following criteria in order to be eligible for funding:

(a) Have sufficient maturity to be deployed, as proven in particular through successful piloting under programmes such as the EU programmes related to innovation and research;

(b) Contribute to EU policies and activities in support of the internal market;

(c) Create European added value and have a strategy and planning for long-term sustainability, where appropriate through funding sources other than CEF, the quality of which is to be demonstrated by a feasibility and cost-benefit assessment. Such strategy shall be updated when appropriate; and

(d) Comply with international and/or European standards or open specifications and orientations for interoperability, such as the European Interoperability Framework, and capitalise on existing solutions.

CEF Regulation: Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013

This Regulation establishes the Connecting Europe Facility ("CEF"), which determines the conditions, methods and procedures for providing EUfinancial assistance to trans-European networks to support projects of common interest in the sectors of transport, telecommunications and energy infrastructures and to exploit potential synergies between those sectors.

4 Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations, Businesses and Citizens (ISA²) actions in 2018

The ISA² programme, established by the European Parliament and Council decision "Interoperability as a means for modernising the public sector", facilitates efficient and effective electronic cross-border or cross-sector interaction between European public administrations and between them and citizens and businesses to enable the delivery of electronic public services supporting the implementation of EU policies and activities. ISA² started on 1 January 2016 and it will last until 31 December 2020.

The main beneficiaries of ISA² are public administrators at EU, national, regional and local level (direct beneficiaries), as well as citizens and businesses (indirect beneficiaries).

The purpose of the programme is to e:

- o Facilitate efficient and effective electronic cross-border or cross-sector interaction between European public administrations and between them and citizens and businesses
- o Enable the delivery of electronic public services
- o Support the implementation of EU policies and activities.

Through the ISA² programme, the EU identifies, creates and operates interoperability solutions implementing EU policies.

4.1 ISA² 2018 work programme

On 20 March 2018, the Commission adopted the 3rd work programme under the ISA² programme with a total annual budget of roughly €26.4 million. Proposals were submitted by Member States and Commission services. Out of 14 proposals, 10 were accepted to become new work programme actions.

Actions are grouped around 9 themes:
- ➢ Key and generic interoperability enablers (7 actions)
- ➢ Semantic interoperability (4 actions)
- ➢ Access to data / data sharing / open data (7 actions)
- ➢ Geospatial solutions (1 action)
- ➢ eProcurement / eInvoicing (1 action)
- ➢ Decision-making and legislation (10 actions)
- ➢ EU policies (5 actions)
- ➢ Supporting instruments for public administrations (16 actions)
- ➢ Accompanying measures (2 actions)

Indicative planing and a financial overview is available at:
https://ec.europa.eu/isa2/sites/isa/files/docs/pages/isa2_2018_wp_indicative_planning_and_financial_overview.pdf

4.1.1   Geospatial solutions – European location interoperability solutions for e-government (ELISE)

In 2018, ELISE will focus on location interoperability in the context of digital government transformation and will support improvements in key areas. It will consolidate its Geo Knowledge Base Service with reusable solutions, applications, pilots and a new series of studies on digital government transformation, thus building upon the action's 2016 and 2017 outputs.

Specifically, the Geo Knowledge Base Service will share best practices and respond to stakeholders' requests. It will be enriched by several ongoing and future studies, with pilots and applications helping to understand further the current enablers and barriers to location interoperability. The service will also include continuous monitoring, horizon - scanning and cataloguing of ICT practices and technical developments for the sharing and reuse of location - enabled data, information and services. In addition, stakeholders will also be consulted (e.g. through surveys, interviews and workshops) to ensure reusable solutions are user-centric and to explore digital transformation in practice.

Among other benefits, the Service will aid public administrations implementing the INSPIRE Directive, as well as policy makers and application developers interested in using its content and/or approach for environmental policy or other domains/initiatives. It will support DG DIGIT Directorate General for Informatics in their assessment of ICT implications of EU legislation (as part of EC Better Regulation objectives) where location information and associated processes are relevant. It will also share evidence and best practices and benchmark developments across Europe by operating an observatory, complementing DIGIT's work on the National Interoperability Framework Observatory (NIFO) Action supported by a network of experts. The Service will also contain training packages to help the Commission and Member States build capacity, alongside wider communication and engagement activities for awareness-raising and the uptake of results.

ELISE scope:
  a. Evaluate the role of location information in the digital transformation of government;
  b. Establish a Geo Knowledge Base Service for ISA2 Programme stakeholders;
  c. Provide guidance based on findings from different action outputs, alongside inputs from stakeholders;
  d. Develop pre-operational common services for decision-making and value - added applications;
  e. Develop and evolve reusable tools supporting location interoperability;
  f. Run pilots and applications covering different policies/sectors; and
  g. Communicate effectively and disseminate the results by actively engaging stakeholders;

5   Final remarks

Along with the debate on Future of Europe, which started with a White Paper and will end with a Parliament elections in 2019, the Commission has presented a number of reflection papers on key topics that will shape Europe in the years to come. For example, a Reflection paper on the future of EU finances.

In parallel, the Commission has launched a series of public consultations related to the next generation of EU financial programmes. The views expressed in both debates and consultations will be taken into account in the process of creating the proposal for the post-2020 Multi-annual Financial Framework, which is the EU's long–term budget planned for the middle of this year.

Over 94% of the EU budget goes to citizens, regions, cities, farmers and businesses. The EU's administrative expenses account for under 6% of the total. The European Parliament wants the EU budget to match political priorities and address some of the new challenges facing all Member States, be they migration, defence, security or climate change. Key proposals include boosting research programmes, Erasmus+, the Youth Employment Initiative and support for SMEs as well as infrastructure investment through the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF).

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