



## Denmark's response to the Commission's public consultation on CEF2 Digital

Denmark appreciates the opportunity to comment on the priority areas for EU digital infrastructure investments and the best ways to address existing connectivity needs with Connecting Europe Facility support.

As a general remark, Denmark would like to prioritize projects that promote the green transition of our economies and societies, thus contributing to achieving the European goals on energy efficiency and climate neutrality. As an example, projects that support the roll-out of 5G along traffic corridors can be mentioned, as 5G can contribute to a more intelligent traffic management with a reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emission.

Specifically, it is our opinion that two types of actions should be prioritized for financial aid.

First of all, we find it evident that actions with a cross-border dimension and a common European interest should have priority. Such projects are more unlikely to be carried out by themselves than projects involving only a single Member State. In this context we would like to highlight the need to support actions which can support the European targets on climate change, including CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and energy efficiency.

Our second priority concerns actions targeted at creating access to high speed broadband to households and businesses in underserved areas. In particular we find it vital that CEF2 Digital can support projects in sparsely populated areas where the business case for roll-out by the market is lacking. We find that this agenda is far more important than supporting e.g. community Wi-Fi.

Overall it is important for us that financial aid is only provided for projects, which will not be realized by the market players on commercial terms.

On this background, it is our opinion that the following actions should be prioritized for support:

- ***Cross-border 5G corridors along transport routes***

We support this action as it contributes to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and innovations of new technologies in the transport sector.



- ***Terabit connectivity for High Performance Computing (HPC)***

We support this action as it contributes to increasing know-how and innovation within the Union.

- ***Energy efficient inter-connections of an EU cloud infrastructure federation***

We support this action as it contributes to increasing innovation and energy efficiency.

- ***Submarine cables of strategic importance***

Denmark finds it important, that EU prioritizes financial support to connecting remotely located areas such as smaller inhabited islands around Europe which could be reached by submarine cables.

- ***Operational Digital Platforms***

We strongly support this action as it unites three sectors of the CEF2 which otherwise may be more difficult to achieve.

We also support this action as it could aid in providing a digital platform for the establishment of e.g. smart grids and renewable energy.

- ***Cross sector programmes***

We strongly support this action as it unites three sectors of the CEF which otherwise may be more difficult to achieve outside a support programme.

We also support this action as digital infrastructure may help to increase energy efficiency and promote the green transition, i.e. in relation to the further development and implementation of smart grids or to promote CO<sub>2</sub>-reductions in the transport sector.

As for the action ***Connectivity for 5G smart communities in Europe*** we prefer not to prioritize this. It is a priority for Denmark to connect the remaining few addresses to highspeed broadband, but we do not see this action as a way of reaching this.

In our view, actions for connecting socio-economic drivers, including WIFI4EU, are not relevant for improving connectivity in Europe. Therefore Denmark prefers to prioritize actions targeted at connecting underserved areas to real highspeed broadband.