

Public consultation on EU funds in the area of strategic infrastructure

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

"A stronger Union needs to be equipped with appropriate financial means to continue to deliver its policies. The Union has changed fundamentally in recent years, as have the challenges it faces. Our Union needs a budget that can help us achieve our ambitions. The Multiannual Financial Framework for the period after 2020 must reflect this." (Commission Work Programme 2018)

The EU budget currently amounts to less than 1 euro per citizen per day. Although a modest budget, at around 1 % of the EU's gross national income or 2 % of all EU public spending, it supports the EU's shared goals by delivering essential public goods and tangible results for EU citizens. These include: investing in skills, innovation and infrastructure; ensuring sustainable food supply and developing rural areas; promoting joint research and industrial projects; funding shared activities in the field of migration and security; and supporting development and humanitarian aid.

The current Multiannual Financial Framework — the EU's long-term budget — runs until the end of 2020. In 2018, the Commission will put forth comprehensive proposals for the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework and for the next generation of financial programmes that will receive funding. These programmes/funds provide financial support to hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries such as regions, towns, NGOs, businesses, farmers, students, scientists, and many others.

The Commission's proposals will be designed to make it possible for the EU to deliver on the things that matter most, in areas where it can achieve more than Member States acting alone. This requires a careful assessment both of what has worked well in the past and what could be improved in the future. What should the priorities be for future policies and programmes/funds? And how can they be designed to best deliver results on the ground?

As an integral part of this process and following on from the [Reflection Paper on the Future of EU Finances](#), the Commission is launching a series of public consultations covering all the major spending areas to gather views from all interested parties on how to make the very most of every euro of the EU budget.

Europe's sustainable growth and competitiveness depend on efficient connectivity. The internal market and territorial cohesion among Member States depend on bridging missing links and removing bottlenecks. Achieving interconnected, interoperable, safe, secure and efficiently managed transport, energy, digital and space infrastructures in Europe requires the ability to plan and invest for the long-term.

EU funds have sought to stimulate European-wide cooperation. The main EU funding tool to fulfil the objective (Article 170 of the EU Treaty) of the establishment and development of trans-European networks in the areas of transport, telecommunications and energy infrastructures is the Connecting Europe Facility programme (CEF). [CEF](#) seeks to boost investment where the EU added-value is highest, notably for cross-border projects and European-wide interoperable systems and services.

Regarding space, the EU has set up three major space programmes; [Galileo](#) and [EGNOS](#) as satellite navigation systems and [Copernicus](#) as an Earth observation system providing data and services. The EU also makes an important investment in the [ITER](#) project, an international cooperation project aiming at the development of fusion as an efficient and sustainable source of energy.

A. About You

* 1. You are replying

- as an individual in your personal capacity
- in your professional capacity or on behalf of an organisation

* 2. Respondent's first name

100 character(s) maximum

* 3. Respondent's last name

100 character(s) maximum

* 4. Email address

* 5. Country of residence

* 6. Your contribution

(Note that, whatever option chosen, your answers may be subject to a request for public access to documents under [Regulation \(EC\) N°1049/2001](#))

- can be published **with your personal information** (I consent the publication of all information in my contribution in whole or in part including my name or my organisation's name, and I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent publication)
- can be published provided that you remain **anonymous** (I consent to the publication of any information in my contribution in whole or in part (which may include quotes or opinions I express) provided that it is done anonymously. I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent the publication.

* 7. Name of your organisation

100 character(s) maximum

Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate (coordinated Dutch government position)

* 8. Is your organisation included in the Transparency Register?

If your organisation is not registered, we invite you to register [here](#), although it is not compulsory to be registered to reply to this consultation. [Why a transparency register?](#)

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

* 9. Postal address of the organisation

300 character(s) maximum

Bezuidenhoutseweg 73
2594 AC Den Haag

* 10. Country of organisation's headquarters

Netherlands

* 11. Type of organisation

- Private enterprise
- Professional consultancy, law firm, self-employed consultant
- Trade, business or professional association
- Non-governmental organisation, platform network
- Research and academia
- Churches and religious communities
- Regional or local authority (public or mixed)
- International or national public authority
- Other (Please specify)

* 11.g. Please specify the type of organisation

- Intergovernmental organisation
- EU institution, body or agency
- National parliament
- National government
- National public authority or agency

* 12. How many employees does the organisation have?

- More than 250 employees (Large enterprise)
- Between 50 and 250 employees (Medium-sized enterprise)
- Between 10 and 49 employees (Small enterprise)
- Less than 10 employees (Micro enterprise)
- Self-employed (Micro enterprise)

Not applicable

* 13. Please let us know whether you have experience with one or more of the following funds and programmes:

- Connecting Europe Facility Programme (CEF) - Energy
- Connecting Europe Facility Programme (CEF) - Telecom
- Connecting Europe Facility Programme (CEF) - Transport
- Galileo, EGNOS, Copernicus or Space Surveillance and Tracking

* 14. Please let us know to which of the following topics your replies to this questionnaire will refer:

- Transport
- Energy
- Digital
- Space

B. EU funds in the area of strategic infrastructure

1. The Commission has preliminarily identified a number of policy challenges which programmes/funds in this area -strategic infrastructure - could address. How important are these policy challenges in your view?

	Very important	Rather important	Neither important nor unimportant	Rather not important	Not important at all	No opinion
* Promoting economic growth and jobs across the EU	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy and society	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Completion of trans-European networks in the areas of transport, energy and telecommunications	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Transition towards clean, competitive and connected mobility	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Transition of EU energy, ensuring security of supply	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* Implementation of the Digital Single Market	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Long term sustainability of Europe's space capability	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Development of new long-term energy sources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 1.a. Please specify if you identified another policy challenge

200 character(s) maximum

not applicable

2. To what extent do the current programmes/funds successfully address these challenges?

	Fully addressed	Fairly well addressed	Addressed to some extent only	Not addressed at all	No opinion
* Promoting economic growth and jobs across the EU	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy and society	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Completion of trans-European networks in the areas of transport, energy and telecommunications	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Transition towards clean, competitive and connected mobility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Transition of EU energy, ensuring security of supply	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
* Implementation of the Digital Single Market	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Long term sustainability of Europe's space capability	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Development of new long-term energy sources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Other (please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 2.a. Please specify if you identified another policy challenge

200 character(s) maximum

not applicable

* 3. To what extent do the current programmes/funds add value, compared to what Member States could achieve at national, regional and/or local levels?

- To a large extent
- To a fairly large extent
- To some extent only

- Not at all
- Don't know

4. Please specify how the current programmes/funds add value compared to what Member States could achieve at national, regional and/or local levels.

Please clearly indicate to which policies, programmes and funds your answers refer.

1500 character(s) maximum

Space is a classical area of international cooperation, because the advantage is evident:
 The Galileo/EGNOS and Copernicus programmes have created world-class strategic infrastructures that no Member State would have been able to create themselves.

- The EU programmes allow Member States to specialize in specific upstream technology. For example, the Netherlands has contributed to the optical instrument Tropomi on Sentinel-5p of the Copernicus programme.
- As for downstream, the data, signals and services create far more valuable information and knowledge as the programmes combine international and self-developed data sources.

5. Is there a need to modify or add to the objectives of the programmes/funds in this policy area?
 If yes, which changes would be necessary or desirable?

Please clearly indicate to which policies, programmes and funds your answers refer.

1500 character(s) maximum

Continuity of the European flagship space programmes, continued user-driven modernization and the open data policy should remain a primary focus.

Maximizing the benefits of space for European society and the other objectives of the European space strategy could be more prominently reflected in the future policy goals. These objectives are: maximizing the benefits of space for society and EU-economy, fostering a competitive EU-space sector, reinforcing the EU's autonomy in accessing and using space, strengthening the EU's role as a global actor and promoting international cooperation.

In the next MFF, the EU should focus on increasing the use of the European space capacities, also by nontraditional space policy areas such as the digital economy, innovation in transport, agriculture and water management, environmental policy and security and defence.

6. To what extent do you consider the following as obstacles which prevent the current programmes /funds from successfully achieving their objectives?

	To a large extent	To a fairly large extent	To some extent only	Not at all	No opinion
* Complex procedures leading to high administrative burden and delays	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Insufficient administrative capacity to manage programmes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Limited information about funding and selection process	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

* Lack of flexibility to react to unforeseen circumstances and to new user needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Difficulty of combining EU action with other public interventions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
* Insufficient synergies between the EU programmes/funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Difficulty to ensure the sustainability of projects when the financing period ends	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Difficulty to access financial instruments to complement funding	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Inadequate co-financing rates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Other (please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

* 6.a. Please specify if you have identified another obstacle

1000 character(s) maximum

There is a mismatch between EU and ESA funding and internal cost methodology. These are currently addressed on an ad hoc basis, a more structural solution is preferable.

7. How could current programmes/funds be further simplified and administrative burdens for beneficiaries be reduced?

	To a large extent	To a fairly large extent	To some extent only	Not at all	No opinion
* Alignment of rules between EU funds	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Fewer, clearer, shorter rules	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* More reliance on national rules	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
* Sufficient flexibility between programming periods	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* More flexibility of resource allocation to respond to unexpected needs	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* More effective stakeholders' involvement in the programming, implementation and evaluation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 7.a. Please specify if you have identified another way to simplify and reduce burdens

1000 character(s) maximum

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8. How could synergies among programmes/funds in this area be further strengthened to avoid possible overlaps/duplication? For example, would you consider grouping/merging some programmes?

Please clearly indicate to which policies, programmes and funds your answers refer.

1500 character(s) maximum

It's important to build on the available space capacities in Europe, notably the European Space Agency (ESA) and EUMETSAT: avoid duplication of efforts and/or fragmentation of capabilities and cooperate building on each other's expertise. The current governance and cooperation with ESA has been positively evaluated. We believe the many positive elements of the current governance should be preserved. The Netherlands would consider grouping the space programmes when there's a convincing case this would increase efficiency, synergies, and would stimulate and increase cooperation with other space organizations in Europe. The Netherlands considers a potential re-grouping a delicate matter, as the programmes are very complex. As for space scientific and technology development, the Netherlands considers an important role for the EU in the low TRL technology and the scientific and societal return of the space programmes, as ESA focuses on translating new technologies in mission concepts and realising those missions.

C. Document upload and final comments

1. Please feel free to upload a concise document, such as a position paper. The maximum file size is 1MB.

Please note that the uploaded document will be published alongside your response to the questionnaire which is the essential input to this open public consultation. The document is optional and serves as additional background reading to better understand your position.

The maximum file size is 1 MB

2. If you wish to add further information — within the scope of this questionnaire — please feel free to do so here.

1500 character(s) maximum

Above answers are without prejudice to the overall position of the Netherlands on the MFF. The Netherlands advocates a future proof, flexible and financially sustainable budget; modernization should go hand in hand with increasing effectiveness and efficiency. Focus should be on those areas where EU timely and adequate response creates added value. Individual programmes and objectives should support this overall objective and allow for an integrated evaluation of the future MFF.

Useful links

Contact

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