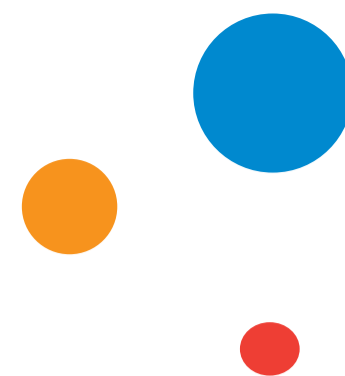


# A MORE BALANCED CEF TRANSPORT BUDGET NEEDED

## A STRONG COMPREHENSIVE NETWORK IS THE BASIS FOR A STRONG CORE NETWORK



On behalf of various European regions, cities and stakeholders we call upon an increase in the allocation of the CEF Transport budget to projects on the Comprehensive TEN-T Network. We support the Commission's mission to create efficient and sustainable transport infrastructure necessary to facilitate the further development of the EU Single Market and the reduction of greenhouse emissions. We underline the importance of the TEN-T policy, addressing key issues to increase sustainability and cohesion in European infrastructure and transport, and CEF Transport as the facilitator of this network.

### NEW BALANCE NEEDED

CEF Transport funding for the period 2014-2020 significantly prioritises projects on the Core Network (95% of the budget) over projects on the Comprehensive Network (5% of the budget). In our view it is important that in the new EU Multiannual Financial Framework for the period 2021-2027 sufficient budget will be made available to further upgrade the Comprehensive Network in order to facilitate the connections to and from the Core Network. Strengthening and further developing the Comprehensive Network is crucial to decrease potential gaps in socio-economic development and increase cohesion and cross border cooperation between EU regions. Additionally, simultaneous rollout of projects on the Core Network as well as the Comprehensive Network will create multiplier effects; e.g. speeding up the implementation of smart and green transport innovations. Therefore, regardless the future CEF architecture and thematic priorities, we advocate for an overall new budgetary ratio between the Core Network and the Comprehensive Network of 70:30 for the period of 2021-2027.

### INVESTMENT IN THE COMPREHENSIVE NETWORK IS CRUCIAL

Underestimating the importance of the further development of the Comprehensive Network and failing to support this by sufficient CEF funding will put the ability to successfully achieve the EU's ambitious goals at risk for various reasons.

1. The Core Network, and in particular the Core Network corridors, are currently handling the bulk of transport of goods and persons throughout Europe. From these corridors the transport is further handled to the hinterland via the Comprehensive Network. Insufficient efficiency levels of infrastructure of the Comprehensive Network, and thereby insufficient handling of goods, will lead to congestion and pollution of these thoroughfares which will certainly have its impact on the Core Network as well.
2. The Comprehensive Network offers excellent locations for the piloting and implementing of innovative transport solutions in so-called 'living labs'. Since transport is currently responsible for 23% of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions it is essential that investments are made to promote low-emission mobility in order to be able to reduce transport emissions by 60% by 2050. The support for investments in smart and green innovative solutions cannot be limited to regions that are part of the Core Network but should include the ones that are part of the Comprehensive Network as well.
3. Supporting the numerous regional initiatives in the areas of the Comprehensive Network in the field of research, innovation and industry in the transport sector through CEF-T funding will result in a large contribution to the EU economic development and employment of the regions.

CONCLUDING, AS EUROPEAN REGIONS, CITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS WE JOINTLY CALL UPON THE COMMISSION TO INCREASE THE BUDGETARY SHARE IN CEF TRANSPORT FUNDING FOR PROJECTS LOCATED ON THE COMPREHENSIVE NETWORK TO 30% OF THE TOTAL AVAILABLE BUDGET FOR 2021-2027.

