



# CONNECTING EUROPE & ASIA THE EU STRATEGY

**SUSTAINABLE, COMPREHENSIVE AND RULES-BASED CONNECTIVITY WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE ENHANCED PROSPERITY, SAFETY AND RESILIENCE OF PEOPLE AND SOCIETIES IN EUROPE AND ASIA**

## WHAT IS CONNECTIVITY?



### TRANSPORT

Diversified trade and travel routes linking existing and future transport networks, shorter transit times and simplified customs procedures.



### ENERGY

More interconnected regional energy platforms, modern energy systems and environmentally friendly solutions.



### DIGITAL

Increased access to digital services while maintaining a high level of protection of consumer and personal data.



### HUMAN DIMENSION

Advanced cooperation in education, research, innovation, culture and tourism.

## WHY DO WE NEED BETTER CONNECTIVITY FOR EUROPE & ASIA?



**€1.6 TRILLION IN ANNUAL TRADE** BETWEEN EUROPE AND ASIA



**EUROPE AND ASIA ACCOUNT FOR OVER 60% OF THE WORLD'S GDP**



SINCE 2014, **OVER 32,000 STUDENTS AND ACADEMIC STAFF** HAVE TRAVELLED BETWEEN OUR TWO REGIONS



WE HAVE A **JOINT RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT**



**CROSS-BORDER RULES AND REGULATIONS MEAN FAIR COMPETITION** FOR BUSINESSES



**FISCAL AND FINANCIAL STABILITY** REQUIRES LONG-TERM PLANNING

## HOW WILL THE EU ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY?

1

CONTRIBUTING TO EFFICIENT CROSS-BORDER CONNECTIONS AND TRANSPORT, ENERGY, DIGITAL AND HUMAN NETWORKS



2

STRENGTHENING BILATERAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS BASED ON COMMONLY AGREED RULES AND STANDARDS



3

LEVERAGING SUSTAINABLE FINANCING FOR INVESTMENTS



The EU has a strong track record of financing connectivity internally and externally through combining innovative financing initiatives and creating opportunities for private sector participation.



### INSIDE THE EU

European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), and The European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) support integrated investment programmes. **Connecting Europe Facility** mobilises investments in cross-border infrastructures for transport, energy and digital networks.



### OUTSIDE THE EU

Investment Facility for Central Asia, Asian Investment Facility and the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD) provide financing to catalyse additional public and private capital.

## WHAT IS THE EU DOING TO CONNECT EUROPE & ASIA?



### TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE



Indicative TEN-T Investment Action Plan for stronger connectivity with Eastern Partnership countries foresees the construction of **4800 kilometres of road and rail, 6 ports, and 11 logistics centres** across Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine by 2030.

### CONNECTIVITY PARTNERSHIPS



The Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure between the EU and Japan sets out the principles, thematic areas and methods for strengthening cooperation with Japan within the four pillars of connectivity (digital, transport, energy, people-to-people) bilaterally and with third countries.



### ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION SYSTEM



Within the framework of the "CASA 1000" project the EIB is contributing **€70 million** to enable Central Asian countries to sell their electricity surplus during summer months to deficient countries in South Asia, improving the electricity access and expand markets in a sustainable way.

### AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENTS



When agreed, the EU-ASEAN Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (CATA) will be the world's first block-to-block aviation agreement, encompassing a combined population of more than **1.1 billion** and over **11 million** passengers on direct EU-ASEAN flights. In the first 7 years (2017-2023) the Agreement is expected to bring up to **€7.9 billion** worth of economic benefits.

## EXAMPLES OF CONNECTIVITY PROJECTS

### STUDENT EXCHANGES & STAFF MOBILITY



For the period 2014-2020 Erasmus+ has earmarked over **€500 million** for Asia. For this period the EU has supported over 37,000 short-term students and staff exchanges, 3,000 degree mobilities as well as 300 capacity building projects in higher education.



### DIGITALLY SUPPORTING RESEARCH COLLABORATION

EU-funded regional Research & Education Networks are connected by GÉANT, the operator of the pan-European research network, digitally connecting over 50 million researchers and students across Europe and Asia. Total current funding for the projects between Europe and Asia (Asi@Connect, CAREN3, EaPConnect and EUMEDCONNECT3) 2015-2025 is **€60.5 million** ([www.geant.org](http://www.geant.org)).