



Key Orientations of SNS R&I WP 2026

Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking

Javier Albares, Head of Programs

On-line event, 2 February 2026





SNS JU

- EU's flagship partnership for 6G research, innovation and deployment readiness.

Transition to Phase III

- From exploratory 6G research to **system-level integration**.
- Focus on **validation and industrial readiness**
- Pathways to **standardization and deployments**

Objectives

- Strengthen **European leadership** in future connectivity
- Ensure **secure, resilient and trustworthy** networks
- Contribute to European Competitiveness

Policy Alignment

- **Horizon Europe** R&I activities
- **Digital Decade** objectives
- Europe's **strategic autonomy** in digital infrastructures
- **Competitive Compass**
- **AI Continent Action Plan & Apply AI Strategy**



Horizon Europe
Strategic Plan 2025-27

White Paper

How to master Europe's digital infrastructure needs?

Artificial Intelligence

AI Continent Action Plan & Apply AI Strategy

Competitiveness Compass

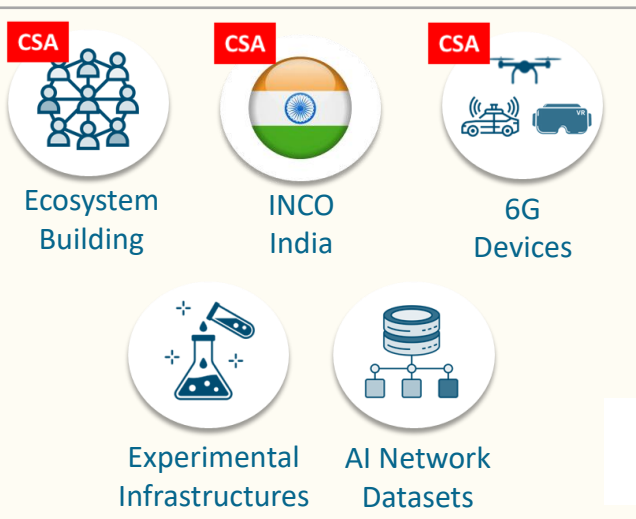
SNS JU
Annual Work
Programme 2026

Bi-Annual Work programme 2026-27

Focus of today

R&I program 2026

29 January- 29 April 2026



6G SNS

Phase 3
of SNS Program

>240 M €

22 M €

~220 M €

R&I program 2027

January-April 2027

To be agreed in
H2 2026



CSA



Ecosystem Building/Support

- **Cross-project coordination** and knowledge sharing
- Strategic **communications** of Program achievements
- Alignment of results with **standardisation roadmaps**

CSA



6G Devices

- EU sovereignty & competitiveness needs **stronger presence in the device market** (Industrial and vertical domains)
- **Opportunity for European** microelectronics and software **ecosystems**

CSA



INCO India

- One of **largest and fastest growing** telecom markets
- **Strategic hub** in telco and software
- Influential in **global standardisation**
- Support **EU's open strategic autonomy** and **EU-India Trade and Technology Council (TTC)** .

Stream B



AI Network Datasets

- **Directly linked to 3GPP's view** that AI will play a major role in 6G and be implemented at every layer of the architecture
- **Facilitate transition** towards AI-native, sustainable and secure 6G systems.

Stream C



Experimental Infrastructures

- System-level experimentation **across multiple domains** of most promising 6G technologies.
- **Considering work from previous SNS phases** in close to operational scenarios, for **validation and monetization**.



Technological Leadership

- EU-developed 6G components integrated into global standards and pilot deployments.



Sovereignty & Resilience

- European vendors and cloud platforms scaled up, reducing dependencies on third countries.



Innovation & Industrial Uptake

- Strong participation of SMEs/startups in projects
- Deployment of 6G use cases across verticals.



Global Influence

- Increased EU leadership in international 6G fora (e.g. 3GPP, ITU)



Societal Value

- Use cases that support European values (e.g. emergency services, health, sustainability).

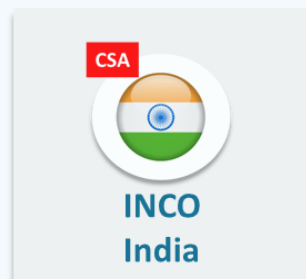
End-to-end thinking across network layers and domains

Technological
EXCELLENCE

IMPACT

**QUALITY
& Efficiency**

Programmatic-level
Objectives ✓



- Convincing **conceptual/strategic case**
- **Coordination** logic
- Solid **methodological approach**

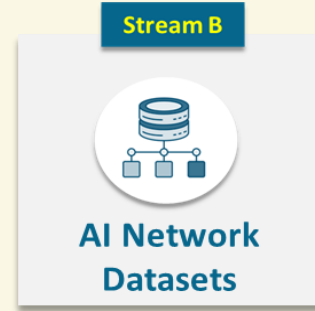
- **Policy / Industry Alignment**
- **Ecosystem Influence** (i.e. industrial roadmaps)
- Concrete **use of outputs** for SNS objectives

- Clear **Deliverables**
- **Stakeholder Management**
- **Reasonable budget** distribution

IKOP ✓

SME ✓

Max: 50 pages



- **Innovative**, well justified, clear.
- **Realistic** level of ambition
- **Openness** and modularity

- Contribute to **EU policy goals**
- Clear KPIs & **pathways to exploit results**
- **Standardization**

- **Solid Work Plan** : tasks & resources
- **Consortia**: expertise & complementarity
- **Risk management**

IKOP ✓

SME ✓

Max: 70 pages



**Your projects will improve
Europe's capacity to transform
R&D into industrial strength,
global impact, and digital
leadership.**

**Call 6 deadline for submissions:
29 April 2026 at 17:00 CET**

Best of luck with your proposals!



SMART NETWORKS AND SERVICES
JOINT UNDERTAKING

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



Contact us: smart-networks.europa.eu

