



## 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





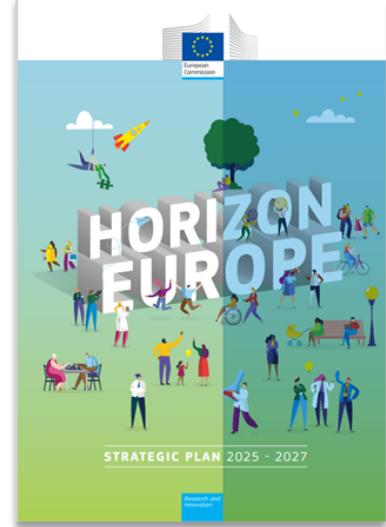
## SNS JU

Transition  
to Phase III

## Objectives

Policy  
Alignment

- EU's **flagship partnership for 6G research, innovation and deployment readiness.**
- From exploratory 6G research to **system-level integration**.
- Focus on **validation and industrial readiness**
- Pathways to **standardization and deployments**
- Strengthen **European leadership** in future connectivity
- Ensure **secure, resilient and trustworthy** networks
- Contribute to European Competitiveness
- **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



Brussels, 21.2.2024  
COM(2024) 81 final  
**WHITE PAPER**  
How to master Europe's digital infrastructure needs?

EN

EN



EN

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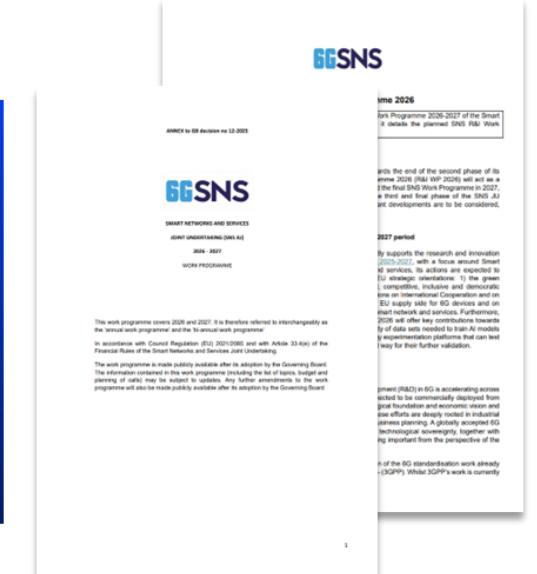
## COMPETITIVENESS COMPASS

Timeline of key actions



**Competitiveness Compass**  
Timeline of key actions

Non-exhaustive



**SNS JU**  
Annual Work  
Programme 2026



## Bi-Annual Work programme 2026-27

Focus of today

## R&amp;I program 2026

29 January- 29 April 2026



6GSNS

Phase 3  
of SNS Program

&gt;240 M €

22 M €

## R&amp;I program 2027

January-April 2027

To be agreed in  
H2 2026

~220 M €



### Ecosystem Building/Support

- Cross-project coordination and knowledge sharing
- Strategic communications of Program achievements
- Alignment of results with standardisation roadmaps
- EU sovereignty & competitiveness needs **stronger presence in the device market** (Industrial and vertical domains)
- **Opportunity for European** microelectronics and software ecosystems



### 6G Devices



### 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**  
& EfficiencyProgrammatic-level  
Objectives 6GSNS  
IAEcosystem  
Building/Support6G  
DevicesINCO  
India

Stream B

AI Network  
Datasets

Stream C

Experimental  
Infrastructures

- 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!

# 6GSNS

SMART NETWORKS AND SERVICES  
JOINT UNDERTAKING

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**



Contact us: [smart-networks.europa.eu](http://smart-networks.europa.eu)

