



WiFi4EU

Bringing connectivity to public spaces

30 September 2019

Franco Accordino
Head of Unit- Unit B5
Investment in High-Capacity Networks
DG CONNECT
European Commission

Follow us on:

#WIFI4EU @ConnectivityEU



Web sites:

<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/policies/wifi4eu-free-wi-fi-europeans>
<https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility/cef-telecom/wifi4eu>

The European Union is bringing free Wi-Fi to public parks, squares, libraries...

- € 120 million of EU investments in vouchers
- More than 8,000 local communities involved

How does it work?

- First-come first-served basis with geographical balance
- Internet access guaranteed for at least 3 years
- Networks free of charge, free of advertising

1- Registration

2- Application

3- Selection

4- Signature

5- Installation

6- Payment

Four call for proposals between 2018 and 2020

First Call – November 2018

€42 million
2,800 vouchers
13,200 applications
3,500 applications in the first
5 seconds

Second Call – April 2019

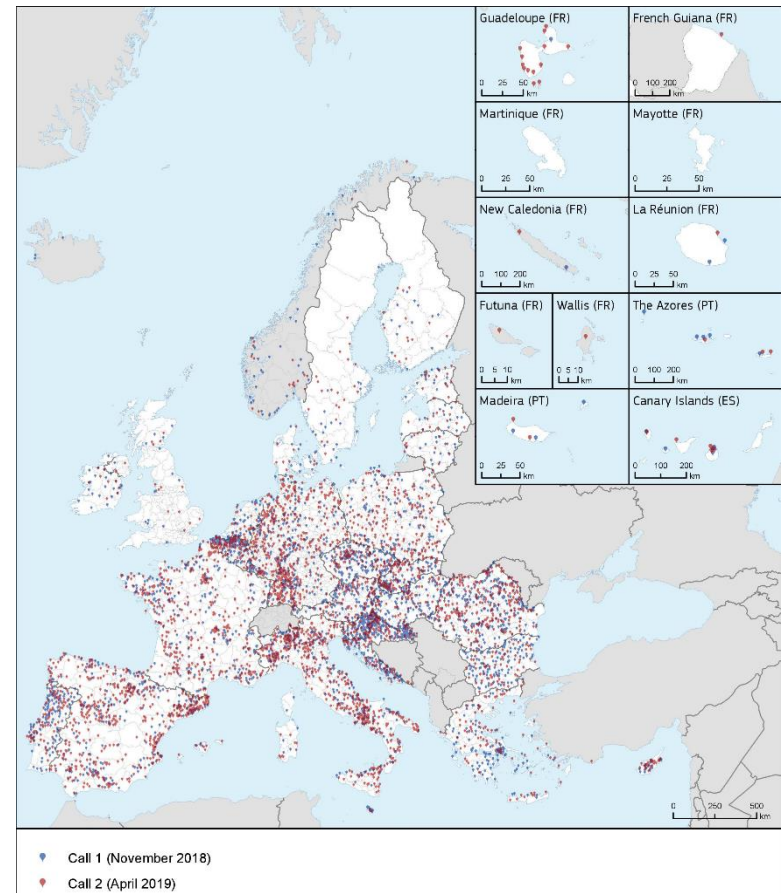
€51 million
3,400 vouchers
10,000 applications
97.5% of vouchers claimed in
the first 60 seconds

Third Call – September 2019

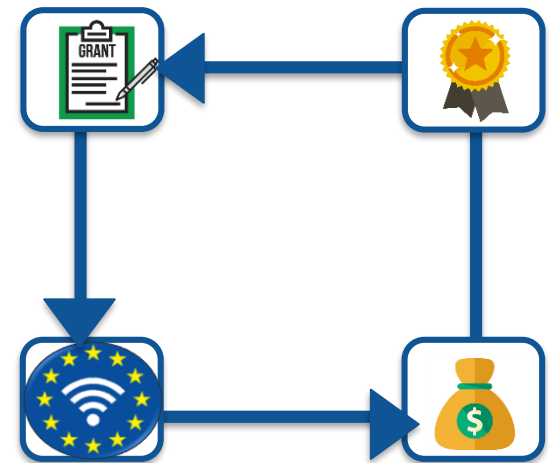
€26.7 million
1780 vouchers
More than 11,000 applications
2,000 applications in the first
2 seconds

Fourth call – Q1 2020

>10 million



- ❑ WiFi4EU micro-grant management is an experimental type of funding
- ❑ Small but accessible and tangible
- ❑ Simple and clear rules for grantees
- ❑ Lighter processes to achieve greater impact
- ❑ “Capillary” investment to nurture the potential of the local communities
- ❑ Connecting local ecosystems to EU and global dimensions



Why WiFi4EU matters

- Increased need for connectivity at local level
 - ❑ Improving quality of life, health, transport, culture, learning...
 - ❑ Supporting the “green deal”, combatting climate change
 - ❑ Great business potential
 - ❑ Gap-filling, inclusive, connecting people to (digital) policies
- Implementing new College’s policy goals
 - ❑ WiFi4EU supports the priorities of new President von der Leyen
 - ❑ It reflects European values such as privacy and data protection
 - ❑ Future-proof: shift from wireless connectivity to higher-scale 5G access points



**Thank you for your
attention !**

