

Research for REGI Committee: Implementation of Cohesion Policy in the 2014-2020 Programming Period January 2018 UPDATE

The implementation timetable for cohesion policy is defined largely by its legislative framework, which explicitly provides for European Parliament involvement in a number of cases. In order to be able to plan parliamentary work and exercise systematic scrutiny of policy implementation and of the Commission's work, it is essential to have an overview of the expected timing of different steps in policy implementation in the coming years. The briefing was first published in 2014, and has been updated since then.

The briefing includes a detailed (but non-exhaustive) timetable of policy actions connected with the implementation of the European Structural and Investment Funds in the second half of 2017, together with an overview of major actions for the remainder of the programming period, from 2019.

Annual Overview

	Policy actions	Sources
2018		
January	Commission to notify delegated act on list of indicators for EGTC under Article 17 – January 2017 (tbc).	EC planning
	Meeting of the Priority Area Coordinators of Danube Strategy - 1 and 22 February 2018.	BG PRES planning
February	Meeting of the Directors-General responsible for Cohesion Policy - 14 February 2018.	BG PRES planning
	ESF High Level Conference - 15 February 2018.	BG PRES planning
	Meeting of the National Territorial Cohesion Contact Points - 28 February 2018.	BG PRES planning
	Meeting of the Urban Development Group - 1 March 2018.	BG PRES planning
	End date of public consultation on “Evaluation of the EU's Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change” - 1 March 2018.	EC planning
March	End date of public consultation on “EU funds in the area of cohesion” - 8 March 2018.	EC planning
	Conference on the future Multiannual Financial Framework - 9 March 2018.	BG PRES planning
	Commission's Annual Progress Report to spring European Council to include a section on ESI Funds – every 2 years from 2018.	CPR Art. 53(4)



	Policy actions	Sources
2018	Commission to adopt CPR technical amendment linked to 2018 annual budget.	EC planning
April	General Affairs Council on Cohesion - 12 April 2018.	BG PRES planning
	Directors General Meeting on Territorial Cohesion – 19 April 2018.	BG PRES planning
	Directors General Meeting on Urban Policy - 20 April 2018.	BG PRES planning
May	International Forum on Tourism and Energy within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region- 23 May 2018.	BG PRES planning
	Joint Meeting of the EUSDR National Coordinators and Priority Area Coordinators - 25 May 2018.	BG PRES planning
June	Deadline for Commission to present proposal for new MFF – (before) 1 January 2018 expected in May 2018.	MFF Art. 25 EC planning
	High-level conference “EU Cohesion Policy: post 2020 perspectives for convergence and sustainable regions” - 7-8 June 2018.	BG PRES planning
August	Deadline for Commission to submit report on the application of EGTC to EP, Council, CoR – 1 August 2018 (expected in July).	EGTC Art. 1(16) amending Art. 17 of 1082/2006, EC planning
October	The European Week of Regions and Cities (OPEN DAYS) - 8-11 October 2018.	CoR
	Meeting of Ministers from the Danube Region together with the Annual Forum of the EUSDR - 18 October 2018.	BG PRES planning
December	Deadline for completing evaluation of ESF-YEI joint support – 31 December 2018.	ESF Art. 19(6)
	Deadline for review of FR – by end of 2018 at latest (entering into force of “Omnibus” is likely due in 2018).	FR Art. 211
	Commission to provide summary of progress on financial instruments and send it to Parliament and Council – 30 November/31 December (each year from 2016, within 6 months of the deadline for submission of annual implementation reports).	CPR Article 46(4)
Unspecified/	Commission to report on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies - December 2018.	EC planning
	End of power conferred on Commission to adopt delegated acts – 21 December 2018.	EGTC Art. 1(17), amending Art. 17a of 1082/2006
Unspecified/	Commission to adopt the proposals on the regulatory framework of the European	EC planning

2018	Policy actions	Sources
annual	Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) post-2020 - Shortly after post-2020 MFF package / before the summer break.	
	Mid-term verification of additionality.	CPR Art. 95(5)
	Ex post evaluation of major projects supported by ERDF and Cohesion Fund between 2000 and 2013 - transport - 4th quarter of 2018.	EC planning
	Ex post evaluation of the European Union Solidarity Fund 2002 -2016 - 4th quarter of 2018.	EC planning
	Commission to submit to COESIF annual summary on ERDF contribution to IPA II and ENI - annually.	ETC Article 4(9)
	Commission to report to Parliament and Council on consultation of organisations representing partners at Union level – at least once a year.	CPR Article 5(6)
	Commission to transmit summary report based on annual implementation reports and available evaluations to Parliament, Council, EESC, CoR – annually (expected in December).	CPR Article 53(1) EC planning
	Annual review meeting between Member States and Commission - annually (from 2016).	CPR Article 51(1)
	EIB to submit annual report to EP and Council on EIB financing and investment operations under EFSI Regulation (including where EFSI is combined with ESIF) - annually.	EFSI Article 16(2)
	Potential upwards revision of YEI resources in the framework of the budgetary procedure - annually (from 2016 to 2020).	CPR Annex VIII.IV (see also MFF Art. 14 and ESF Art. 16)

Multiannual Overview 2019-2025

	2019	2020
March		CPR Art. 53(4) Commission's Annual Progress Report to spring European Council to include a section on ESI Funds – every 2 years from 2018
May	EC planning Mid-term evaluation of the JASPERS initiative in 2014-2020 - May 2019	
August	CPR Art. 52(1) Deadline for Member States to submit progress report to Commission 31 August 2019	
December	CPR Art. 53(2) Deadline for Commission to submit strategic report to EP, Council, EESC, CoR - 31 December 2019 Art. 57(3) Deadline for Commission to complete ex post evaluations of dedicated programmes ('SME initiative') - 31 December 2019	CPR Art. 149(2), ERDF Art. 14(2), ETC Art. 29(2), CF Art. 7(2), ESF Art. 24(2) End of power conferred on Commission to adopt delegated acts - 31 December 2020 CPR Art. 76 Cut-off date for budgetary commitments - 31 December 2020 CPR Art. 151, ERDF Art. 6, ETC Art. 31, CF Art. 9, ESF Art. 28 Deadline for review of regulations - 31 December 2020
Unspecified	CPR Art. 21 Performance review of programmes in each Member State, undertaken by Commission in cooperation with Member States Art. 22(2) Commission to adopt decisions linked to achievement of milestones	CPR Art. 113 8th Cohesion report
Annual	CPR Art. 5(6) Commission to report to EP and Council on consultation of organisations representing partners at Union level – at least once a year Art. 46(4) Commission to provide summary of progress on financial instruments and send it to Parliament and Council – 30 November / 31 December (each year from 2016, within 6 months of deadline for submission of annual implementation reports) Art. 53(1) Commission to transmit summary report based on annual implementation reports and available evaluations to Parliament, Council, EESC, CoR each year from 2016 Annex VIII.IV (see also Art. 14 of MFF and Art. 16 of ESF) Potential upwards revision of YEI resources in the framework of the budgetary procedure	
2021-25	CPR Art. 95(5) Ex-post verification of additionality - 2022 Art. 114(2) Managing authorities to submit report summarising the findings of evaluations - 31 December 2022 Art. 134(2) Final annual pre-financing amount to be paid (from 2016 onwards)- 1 July 2023 Art. 50(1) and 111(1) and ETC Art. 17 Last submission by Member States of annual implementation reports - 2023* Art. 51(1) Last annual review meeting between Member States and Commission - 2023 Art. 65(2) Cut-off date for eligibility of expenditure - 31 December 2023 Art. 136(2) Decommitment deadline - 31 December 2023 Art. 2(29) Final accounting year to end - 30 June 2024 Art. 127(4) Last update of audit strategy - 2024 Art. 57(2) Deadline to complete ex post evaluations - 31 December 2024 Art. 138 and FR 59(5) Final year for Member States to submit documents on accounts, management declaration, annual summary, audit opinion and control report - 15 February 2025 Art. 57(4) Deadline for Commission to prepare a synthesis report on the basis of ex-post evaluations - 31 December 2025	

* See also provision related to the final implementation report for the final accounting year from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 - CPR Article 141 on Submission of closure documents and payment of the final balance.

List of abbreviations

BG PRES planning	Information available on the website of The Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union
CF	Cohesion Fund (Regulation (EU) No 1300/2013)
COESIF	Coordination Committee for the European Structural and Investment Funds
CoR	Committee of the Regions
CPR	Common Provisions Regulation
CPR AM for Greece	Regulation (EU) 2015/1839 of 14 October 2015 amending the CPR (specific measures for Greece)
EC planning	Information available on the European Commission at Work , Better Regulation , Regional policy - Inforegio , Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion webpages or through (formal or informal) contacts with Commission services
EESC	European Economic and Social Committee
EFSI	European Fund for Strategic Investments (Regulation (EU) No 2015/1017)
EGTC	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (Regulation (EU) No 1302/2013 amending Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006)
ENI	European Neighbourhood Instrument (Regulation (EU) No 232/2014)
EP	European Parliament
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund (Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013)
ESF	European Social Fund (Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013)
ESF AM for YEI	Regulation (EU) 2015/779 of 20 May 2015 amending the ESF (additional initial pre-financing, YEI)
ESI Funds	European Structural and Investment Funds
ETC	European Territorial Cooperation (Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013)
FR	Financial Regulation
IPA II	Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (Regulation (EU) No 231/2014)
MFF	Multiannual Financial Framework (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013)
YEI	Youth Employment Initiative

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