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Creation date : 23-02-2020
**Implementation of macro-regional strategies**

**Publication type** Briefing  
**Date** 20-02-2020  
**Author** Christiaan VAN LIEROP  
**Policy area** Regional Development  
**Keyword** Ionian Sea | regional cooperation | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | EU Member State | Baltic Sea | regional geography | EU financing | European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument | Central Transdanubia

**Summary** While each macro-regional strategy is unique in terms of the countries it brings together and the scope of its policies, they all share the same common aim: to ensure a coordinated approach to issues that are best tackled together. Building on the success of the pioneering 2009 European Union strategy for the Baltic Sea region, this form of cooperation has since become firmly embedded in the EU's institutional framework, with four strategies now in place, covering a total of 19 Member States and 8 third countries. Every two years, the European Commission publishes a report to assess the implementation of these strategies, most recently in 2019. With the views of stakeholders and other players helping to complete the picture, it is possible to identify a number of challenges common to all macro-regional strategies in areas such as governance, funding, political commitment and the need to be more results oriented. This, in turn, has helped focus discussions on the future role of macro-regional strategies within the post 2020 cohesion policy framework. For while recent months have seen the idea of a fifth macro-regional strategy resurface, with negotiations now under way on the cohesion policy architecture beyond 2020, the future position of macro-regional strategies within this framework looks set to be the key issue in the coming months for all actors involved in the EU's macro-regional strategies. Parliament has actively taken part in this debate, through its participation in trilogues on the cohesion policy package, and its 2018 resolution on the implementation of macro-regional strategies. The current Croatian EU Presidency has also committed to focusing on achieving the goals of macro-regional strategies and ensuring their complementarity with cohesion policy as part of its programme, helping to keep the issue high on the political agenda. Much will depend, however, on the outcome of the ongoing multiannual financial framework (MFF) negotiations, which will be critical not only for macro-regional strategies but also for the future shape of cohesion policy in general. This is an updated edition of a Briefing from September 2017.

**European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund 2021-2027**

**Publication type** Briefing  
**Date** 30-01-2020  
**Author** Agnieszka WIDUTO  
**Policy area** Regional Development | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council  
**Keyword** employment aid | regional aid | eligibility criteria | less-favoured region | economic growth | EU regional policy | regional disparity | Cohesion Fund | European Regional Development Fund | proposal (EU) | regional development

**Summary** In the context of the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027, the European Commission published a proposal for a regulation on the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF) on 29 May 2018. The new single regulation on the ERDF and CF (previously covered by two separate regulations) identifies the specific objectives and scope of support for both funds, including non-eligible activities. The majority of ERDF funding (65 % to 85 %) will focus on smart growth and the green economy, while the fund will also support other activities such as connectivity, social issues and local development. The CF will continue to focus predominantly on environmental and transport infrastructure. Special provisions have been proposed for territories such as urban areas and outermost regions. The indicator framework for monitoring progress will include new common results indicators. In the European Parliament, the file was allocated to the Committee on Regional Development, and on 27 March 2019 the Parliament adopted a legislative resolution in plenary constituting its first-reading position. The proposal is currently at trilogue stage with a view to an early second-reading agreement. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.
Mechanism to resolve legal and administrative obstacles in a cross-border context

Cohesion funds, values and economic and monetary union in the 2021-2027 MFF: European Parliament position on Heading 2 – Cohesion and values

Publication type Briefing
Date 17-01-2019
Author Diana HAASE
Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Regional Development
Keyword EP Committee | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | drafting of EU law | interinstitutional relations (EU)

Summary
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 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 2019, together with an overview of major actions for the remainder of the programming period, from 2020.

Regional governance in the EU

Publication type Briefing
Date 03-10-2018
Author Agnieszka WIDUTO
Policy area Regional Development
Keyword governance | local government | EU regional policy | regionalisation | European Social Fund | Cohesion Fund | European Regional Development Fund

Summary
The quality of public institutions has a major impact on social and economic development at regional level. Regions with high government effectiveness, low corruption and high-quality public services tend to have higher outcomes in terms of economic performance, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, education, health, and subjective well-being. Administrative capacity-building is therefore crucial, as it has a positive impact on creating conditions conducive to economic and social progress. The 2017 European Quality of Government Index (EQI) shows that institutional quality still varies across EU regions, but the traditional north-south and east-west divisions seem to be slowly blurring. While northern countries remain at the top, the eastern regions have made the most improvement compared with previous editions of the index. Some southern regions, meanwhile, have experienced a decline over the past few years. In the 2014 to 2020 period, EU cohesion policy has offered a variety of funding sources and instruments to support local and regional authorities. Investments are available for enhancing the management of EU funds and for building long-term institutional capacity. Specific actions include training for civil servants, cross-border cooperation, e-government tools, efforts to optimise procedures, and modernisation of public service delivery.

Measuring social progress in EU regions

Publication type Briefing
Date 01-10-2018
Author Agnieszka WIDUTO
Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Regional Development
Keyword social analysis | EU regional policy | social inequality | European Semester | economic analysis | EU statistics

Summary
The social dimension has long been present on the European Union agenda. Recently, it has gained greater significance, particularly in contexts such as the EU governance framework (the European Semester), and economic and monetary union, as well as the reflection process on the future of the EU. Initiatives to measure the EU's social situation and the social impact of EU policies have produced a number of indicators that complement the assessment of economic performance. These measurements can help present a more comprehensive picture of the state of European societies. The EU regional Social Progress Index provides an overview of aspects including health, access to education, environmental quality, housing, personal rights and inclusion. The 2016 findings give a mixed picture of social progress across EU regions. Generally, Nordic and Dutch regions figure among the top performers, with southern and eastern regions lagging behind. However, the picture becomes more nuanced when specific dimensions of social progress are taken into account. The index also shows that social progress scores do not always correlate with a region's GDP. Improving social progress is also relevant to EU cohesion policy, one of the goals of which is to achieve social, economic and territorial cohesion, while also reducing regional disparities. Regional investments can therefore be geared to support both economic performance and social progress. The role and application of new indicators and indexes in this process is currently being explored with a view to establishing how they can be used in policy to support real change, for instance by monitoring developments, identifying priorities, and evaluating progress. This is an updated edition of a briefing published in November 2017.
Challenges for EU cohesion policy: Issues in the forthcoming post-2020 reform

Publication type Briefing
Date 29-09-2017
Author Vasileios MARGARAS
Policy area Regional Development
Keyword digital single market | European Structural and Investment Funds | United Kingdom | European Globalisation Adjustment Fund | EU regional policy | Cohesion Fund | economic reform | multiannual financial framework | economic governance (EU) | economic and social cohesion | distribution of EU funding | European Semester | withdrawal from the EU

Summary The debate on the shape of the post-2020 cohesion policy is well under way. Stakeholders have identified a number of principal issues or questions in this regard, relating to the operation of the policy itself as well as its impact and relationship with other EU polices and with the wider goals and objectives of the Union. One issue debated is how cohesion policy can best contribute to the twin objectives of competitiveness and cohesion. Finding the most efficient form of support is another important point of discussion: should it be grants, repayable assistance, financial instruments, or possibly a mix of all of these along with further thematic concentration? In addition, the way that cohesion policy addresses new or growing challenges such as migration has been raised. Simplification of the policy for beneficiaries, flexibility, the importance of achieving better governance, and the contribution of cohesion policy to the EU's economic governance are all widely debated. Other specific matters raised relate to the urban dimension in cohesion policy and the impact that the policy can have upon growth, jobs and innovation in sparsely populated areas, regions lagging behind and regions with special geographical characteristics. The departure of the United Kingdom from the EU will have a significant impact on the EU budget and consequently on the financial envelope for cohesion policy. Finally, the European Commission (EC) has published a number of white papers on the future of the EU that provide further ideas for reflection on the overall functioning and priorities of the Union. These reflections also have repercussions for cohesion policy. This briefing is an update of an earlier edition, published in February 2017.

Delivering the Urban Agenda for the EU

Publication type Briefing
Date 26-09-2017
Author Christiaan VAN LIEROP
Policy area Regional Development
Keyword economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | integration of migrants | sustainable development | town | urban economy | urbanisation | social integration | policymaking

Summary Our towns and cities are home to nearly three quarters of the EU's population, and most EU policies concern them, be it directly or indirectly. While the revised 2014-2020 cohesion policy framework introduced a number of new instruments intended to enhance the urban dimension of cohesion funding, a shared vision of urban development has gradually taken shape at inter-governmental level, accompanied by increasing calls to give city authorities and stakeholders a greater say in policymaking. To help guide these discussions, the European Commission launched a public consultation following its July 2014 communication on the urban dimension of EU policies. Its findings indicated broad support among city stakeholders for an Urban Agenda for the EU. The European Parliament also prepared an own-initiative report on the issue, as part of a process that would ultimately lead to the signing of the Pact of Amsterdam on 30 May 2016, a clear political commitment to deliver an Urban Agenda. With eight urban partnerships now in operation and the members of the remaining four announced in April 2017, past months have seen visible progress in terms of delivering the Urban Agenda, with recent developments including the setting up of a permanent secretariat for the Urban Agenda and the publication of background papers by four partnerships, with their action plans expected soon. This process looks set to expand further following the 2016 UN Habitat III conference in Quito, which identified the Urban Agenda for the EU as the main delivery mechanism in the EU for the UN's New Urban Agenda, a roadmap for global sustainable urban development.

RESEARCH FOR REGI COMMITTEE: The economic, social and territorial situation of Romania - North-West Region

Publication type Briefing
Date 14-07-2017
Author Diana HAASE
Policy area Forward Planning | Regional Development
Keyword statistics | Romania | convergence criteria | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | sociology | economic activity | European Fund for Strategic Investments | distribution of EU funding | economic analysis

Summary This briefing was prepared to provide information for the visit to Romania’s North-West (Nord-Vest) Region (Cluj-Napoca and Turda) of 18 to 20 September 2017 by a delegation of the European Parliament’s Committee on Regional Development.
Regional competitiveness in the EU

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 03-07-2017
Author: Agnieszka WIDUTO
Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues | Regional Development
Keyword: labour market | EU regional policy | macroeconomics | competitiveness | economic policy | Cohesion Fund | European Semester | innovation | diffusion of innovations

Summary: Competitiveness has been an important issue on the EU’s agenda for several decades. Understood in a more comprehensive way – as including both productivity and prosperity – it can be seen as a way to create favourable business conditions for companies and to increase the standards of living of the population. Supporting competitiveness, especially in the case of nations and regions, requires creating framework conditions to develop the necessary infrastructure, human capital, technology and efficient markets that can help attract talent and investment. In the 2016 edition of its Regional Competitiveness Index, the European Commission presents a ranking of regions according to their attractiveness for both firms and residents. This broader vision of competitiveness can have implications for policy decisions and the choice of investment priorities. Data on the diverse dimensions of the Index, such as innovation, education and institutions, can help authorities to identify respective regional strengths and aspects to be improved. Increasing regional competitiveness is also a task relevant to EU cohesion policy. While the main role of EU regional funding is to ensure cohesion and reduce disparities between regions, competitiveness is important for supporting dynamic regional development. Therefore, the right balance in the policy mix between supporting competitiveness and convergence is required.

Promoting development in the outermost regions

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 27-06-2017
Author: Christiaan VAN LIEROP
Policy area: Regional Development
Keyword: economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | peripheral region | EU financing | regional development

Summary: Located far from the European continent and with regional gross domestic product well below the EU average, the EU's outermost regions – the Azores, the Canary Islands, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Madeira, Martinique, Mayotte, Réunion and Saint-Martin – face many challenges to development, owing to factors such as climate or economic dependence on a few products. A report on promoting cohesion and development in the outermost regions is due to be debated in Parliament's July session.

EFSI and ESI Funds: Complementarity or contradiction?

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 11-01-2017
Author: Vasileios MARGARAS
Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues | Regional Development
Keyword: European Structural and Investment Funds | EU regional policy | investment project | European Investment Bank | EU growth strategy | European Fund for Strategic Investments | small and medium-sized enterprises | transport infrastructure | financing | EU investment | operation of the Institutions | fund (EU) | innovation | proposal (EU)

Summary: Shortly after beginning its 2014-2019 mandate, the European Commission proposed a new Investment Plan for Europe, often referred to as the 'Juncker Plan'. The Investment Plan was seen as a top priority for the European Commission, aimed at strengthening Europe’s competitiveness and stimulating investment in order to create more jobs. It is based on three mutually reinforcing strands: firstly, the mobilisation of at least €315 billion in additional investment over the next three years, maximising the impact of public resources and unlocking private investment through the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI); secondly, targeted initiatives to ensure that this extra investment meets the needs of the real economy through strengthened transparency measures and advisory services; and thirdly, measures to provide greater regulatory predictability and to remove barriers to investment, making Europe more attractive and thereby multiplying the plan’s impact. The European Parliament was generally positive regarding EFSI, however, there were criticisms regarding its scope, remit and overall output in the European economy. One of the issues raised in policy fora is the complex relationship between EFSI and the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) as well as EFSI’s overall impact on the territorial cohesion objective of European Union regional policy. Various stakeholders have also mentioned that EFSI may run contrary to the aims of the ESI Funds, thus creating a competitive relationship with EU regional policy.
En-Depth Analysis

Summary
This in-depth analysis was prepared on the request of the Committee on Regional Development in the context of its visit to Greece. The analysis provides an overview of Greece's regions (with a special attention to Attica and Central Macedonia) and of its political, economic and administrative system. In addition, this analysis focuses on the implementation of cohesion policy on the ground with a particular attention to the consequences of the recent amendment of the Common Provisions Regulation in respect of special measures for Greece, as well as to Greece's participation in six European Territorial Cooperation programmes.

Briefing

Summary
The NUTS classification (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) is a system to divide the territory of Member States (MS) into regions for the purpose of collection and harmonisation of statistics and for socio-economic analysis. There are three NUTS NUTS: 1, 2 and 3 respectively, moving from smaller to larger territorial units. NUTS 2 divides Europe into 276 regions with minimum and maximum population thresholds of 800 000 and 3 000 000. It is used for allocating European structural and investment funds to EU regions. This paper provides statistics for the 276 NUTS 2 regions, firstly looking at GDP and unemployment for the years 2004 and 2014. Second, it shows the employment situation of the younger generation in 2014. It then considers employment, poverty and education in the light of selected Europe 2020 targets, and internet usage in view of the EU's digital agenda. Finally it shows the allocation of structural and investment funds for the period 2014-2020.

Study

Summary
This eighth edition of the overview of European Council conclusions, presented in the form of a Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date, is a product of the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the European Parliament's in-house research service and think-tank. As part of its work, the unit maintains a rolling database of all the European Council's commitments and responsibilities, which is updated and published regularly, with an indication of follow-up given to date. The European Council became a formal Union institution, with a full-time President, under the Treaty of Lisbon. Although it does not exercise legislative functions, the European Council's role - to 'provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development' and to define its 'general political directions and priorities' - has developed rapidly over the past seven years. As an example of setting overall priorities for the Union, on 26-27 June 2014, the European Council adopted a Strategic Agenda to 'guide the institutions in annual and multiannual programming, as well as in legislative planning' in the 2014-19 institutional cycle. The European Parliament is strongly committed to the principle of Better Law-Making, and particularly to the effective use of impact assessment and evaluation throughout the legislative cycle. It is in this spirit that enhanced powers for stronger executive bodies can and should be balanced by greater scrutiny and oversight, especially in respect of the implementation of EU law and policies. The Parliament's administrative capacity to support parliamentary committees and individual Members in exercising ex-post scrutiny and oversight of the executive has accordingly been enhanced in order to provide stronger and deeper analysis of the transposition, implementation and enforcement of EU secondary law, and more generally, of the impact, operation, effectiveness and delivery of EU law and policy in practice. In this context, since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit has been monitoring and analysing the delivery on commitments made by the European Council in the conclusions of its meetings, as well as its various responsibilities either in law or on the basis of intergovernmental agreements. This compendium is designed to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in the months and years ahead.
Safeguarding biodiversity: EU policy and international agreements

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis  
Date: 12-05-2016  
Author: Didier BOURGUIGNON  
Policy area: Environment  
Keyword: biodiversity | EU environmental policy | climate change policy | EU regional policy | environmental protection | international agreement | EU financing | common agricultural policy  
Summary: Biodiversity, the diversity of life on earth at all levels, is declining, mainly as a result of human-induced pressures such as over-exploitation of natural resources, loss of viable habitats, pollution, climate change or invasive alien species. EU biodiversity policy is based on the Birds and Habitats Directives, which served as the basis for the development of the Natura 2000 network of protected sites, now covering 788 000 km² on land (over 18% of EU land area) and 318 000 km² at sea (about 5.9% of EU seas). The policy is driven by the EU biodiversity strategy, setting ambitious aims for 2020 (halting the loss of biodiversity) and 2050 (protecting and valuing biodiversity and ecosystem services), with the addition of a strategy on green infrastructure. The European Commission estimates that the Natura 2000 network delivers benefits worth between €200 and €300 billion per year, against management costs estimated at €5.8 billion per year. The LIFE Programme co-finances some measures related to biodiversity, especially as regards Natura 2000. Funding aimed at protecting biodiversity is also available under the agricultural, regional, fisheries, and research policies. The European Parliament has long been supportive of EU biodiversity protection policy. Developments in EU biodiversity policy include a process of 'biodiversity proofing' of the EU budget, improved monitoring, definition of priorities for the restoration of degraded ecosystems, "biodiversity offsetting" of unavoidable residual impacts, and a "fitness check" of EU nature legislation. This publication updates an earlier edition, of 1 April 2015: PE 554.175.

In-Depth Analysis DE, EN, FR

Research for AGRI Committee - Programmes Implementing the 2015-2020 Rural Development Policy

Publication type: Study  
Date: 16-05-2016  
External author Janet Dwyer, Katarina Kubinakova, Nick Lewis, John Powell, Mauro Vigan, Barbara Fährmann, Alexander Gocht, Regina Grajewski, Maria Coto Sauras, Paloma Nieto Cachinero, Francesco Mantino, Marielle Berriet-Solliec and Hai-vu Pham  
Policy area: Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Agriculture and Rural Development  
Keyword: regions of France | EAFRD | France | regions of Italy | EU regional policy | reform of the CAP | EU programme | rural development | Italy | Spain | regions of Germany | Germany | regions of Spain | operational expenditure (EU) | distribution of EU funding  
Summary: This report examines the choices made by EU Member States in preparing their Rural Development Programmes for the 2015-2020 period. It finds much continuity compared to the previous period but some notable changes, including more funding for knowledge and co-operation and greater focus upon the goals of environmental management and investments for primary sector competitiveness, with less for rural diversification. There is weak evidence of targeting of relative needs at EU level, but some evidence of a more strategic approach, learning from past experience, within Programmes. Heavy administrative burdens appear as a negative influence upon effective programme design, but innovation is indicated in the diverse uses of the co-operation measure. Other new measures have not proven popular. An effort to identify simpler approaches that enable effective targeting is recommended.

Study DE, EN

Harnessing cohesion policy to tackle social exclusion: Opportunities and limitations

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis  
Date: 26-05-2016  
Author: Christiaan VAN LIEROP  
Policy area: Social Policy | Regional Development  
Keyword: poverty | Structural Funds | European social policy | EU investment | economic growth | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | European Commission | social integration  
Summary: This publication aims to examine the measures available to Member States under cohesion policy to help them address poverty and social exclusion. Through detailed references to EU legislation, national programming documents and the views of stakeholders, the paper will discuss the EU-funded action being taken by individual countries to promote social inclusion and identify the limitations of cohesion policy for tackling poverty and social exclusion. Poverty and social exclusion can have a damaging effect on individuals’ lives, with its impact on people’s health and education often leading to a vicious circle of deprivation. To help break this dangerous cycle of poverty, the Europe 2020 Strategy set a headline target of taking at least 20 million people out of poverty and social exclusion by 2020. The revision of the cohesion policy framework for 2014-2020 has strengthened support for the delivery of the Europe 2020 targets by aligning structural funds more closely to the strategy through thematic concentration, which focuses action on a limited number of targets, helping to optimise the use of EU funds where they can be most effective. Cohesion policy can play a vital role in tackling social exclusion, with structural funds accounting for the majority of the public investment budget in many countries. The Partnership Agreements and Operational Programmes prepared by Member States in this context provide valuable insight into countries’ plans for delivering social inclusion.

In-Depth Analysis DE, EN, FR

23-02-2020  
Source : © European Union, 2020 - EP
New territorial development tools in cohesion policy

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 02-05-2016
Author: Christiaan VAN LIEROP
Policy area: Regional Development
Keyword: regulation (EU) | EU financing arrangements | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | EU Member State | fund (EU) | regional development
Summary: During the May plenary session, the European Parliament is due to debate two of the new territorial development tools in cohesion policy, Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) and Community-Led Local Development (CLLD).

An agenda for the EU’s mountainous regions

Publication type: At a Glance
Date: 02-05-2016
Author: Vivienne HALLEUX
Policy area: Regional Development
Keyword: EU financing arrangements | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | mountain region | fund (EU) | hill farming | common agricultural policy | rural development
Summary: In the May plenary session, the EP is expected to vote on a resolution that calls for an integrated policy approach to mountain areas, to allow for better consideration of their development needs.

Research for AGRI Committee - The Role of the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy in Creating Rural Jobs

Publication type: Study
Date: 22-04-2016
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Stanislas DE FINANCE | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN
Policy area: Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Agriculture and Rural Development
Keyword: Romania | France | United Kingdom | agricultural expenditure | EU regional policy | Netherlands | working population engaged in agriculture | rural development | Italy | Spain | Hungary | economic accounts for agriculture | Poland | Germany | Portugal | Lithuania | job creation | Sweden | economic indicator | common agricultural policy | agricultural holding | EU statistics
Summary: This study analysed the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy’s role in creating rural jobs. Starting at the EU level, a thorough systematic literature review and a statistical analysis prepare the ground for more detailed Member State reviews and Case studies. When discussing the findings the study concludes that the CAP supports the survival of small scale farms and contributes to sustain and develop rural economies. However, Pillar I payments have contradictory effects on employment and its ability in creating jobs appears to be limited. Pillar II is effective in supporting diversification, but concrete evidences of direct effects on employment are difficult to assess due to missing systematic reporting on job creation.

European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (seventh edition)

Publication type: Study
Date: 21-03-2016
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Stanislas DE FINANCE | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN
Keyword: common commercial policy | single market | enlargement of the Union | EU regional policy | area of freedom, security and justice | European tax cooperation | common foreign and security policy | development policy | European Council | European social policy | climate change policy | competitiveness | energy policy | EU migration policy | coordination of EMU policies | interinstitutional relations (EU) | EU employment policy
Summary: Seventh edition. The European Council's role - to 'provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development' and to define its 'general political directions and priorities' - has developed rapidly over the past six years. Since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the European Parliament's in-house research service and think tank, has been monitoring and analysing the European Council’s delivery of the various commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings. This overview, presented in the form of a regularly updated Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date, is designed to review the degree of progress in realising the goals which the European Council has set itself since January 2010 and to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in this field.
Research for REGI Committee - Review of the Role of the EIB Group in European Cohesion Policy

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-03-2016

External author: Arno van der Zwart, John Bachtler, Stephen Miller, Phillip Vernon and Viktoriya Dozhdeva

Policy area: Regional Development
Keyword: investment policy | Structural Funds | EU regional policy | transparency in decision-making | European Investment Bank | European Investment Fund | European Commission | regional development | EIB loan | EU investment | economic and social cohesion | European Parliament | interinstitutional relations (EU)

Summary: The aim of this study is to provide a comprehensive analysis and assessment of how the European Investment Bank contributes to the achievement of Cohesion Policy objectives. The study finds that the role of the European Investment Bank in Cohesion Policy increased significantly in the 2007-13 programme period and continues to increase in 2014-20. Research results show that there is limited understanding of the effectiveness of European Investment Bank contributions to Cohesion Policy. In order to increase accountability, the inter-institutional relationship between the European Parliament's Committee on Regional Development and the European Investment Bank should be strengthened.

Study EN

Research for AGRI Committee - Agriculture in Andalusia

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-03-2016

Author: Albert MASSOT MARTI

Policy area: Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Agriculture and Rural Development
Keyword: protected area | EU regional policy | agricultural trade | EU programme | rural development | Spain | irrigated agriculture | farming sector | regional statistics | agricultural production | fund (EU) | Andalusia | common agricultural policy | agri-foodstuffs | agricultural statistics | economic situation

Summary: This memo was drawn up for the delegation of the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development to Andalusia (Spain) in May 2016. It includes: 1) an introduction, setting out the key political, geographical, climatic and demographic data; 2) a chapter entirely devoted to the EU's and Spain's macro-economic framework; 3) a study of the agri-food sector in Andalusia; 4) the region's environmental challenges; and finally, 5) concluding comments on the implementation of EU agricultural funds in Andalusia and indications of the new CAP's key regional impacts for the 2014-2020 period, based on the application model adopted by the Spanish authorities.

Study ES, DE, EN, IT, PL

EU Urban Agenda – State of play

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 25-02-2016

Author: Christiaan VAN LIEROP

Policy area: Regional Development
Keyword: economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | EU Council Presidency | Netherlands | sustainable development | town | urban economy | urbanisation | social integration

Summary: Our towns and cities are home to nearly three quarters of the EU's population and most EU policies concern them, be it directly or indirectly. Within the EU, a shared vision of urban development has gradually taken shape at inter-governmental level. At the same time there have been increasing calls for concrete action and the development of an EU Urban Agenda to give city authorities and stakeholders a greater say in the process. To help guide these discussions, the European Commission launched a public consultation following its July 2014 Communication on the Urban Dimension of EU policies. Its findings indicate broad support among city stakeholders for an EU Urban Agenda. The European Parliament has also prepared an own-initiative report on the issue as part of this process, which was adopted at the September 2015 plenary session.

The revised 2014-2020 Cohesion Policy framework introduced a number of new instruments intended to increase the role of cities in cohesion programming and implementation and thus enhance the urban dimension of cohesion funding. With the launch of Urban Innovative Actions and the introduction of the first four urban partnerships, recent months have seen both a strengthening of the cohesion policy framework and the first concrete action towards rolling out the Urban Agenda.

Building on this momentum, the Dutch Council Presidency has put forward an ambitious roadmap for the coming months, which should lead to the signing in May 2016 of the Pact of Amsterdam, a binding political commitment to deliver on the promise of an EU Urban Agenda.

This briefing is an update of an earlier one published in July 2015.

Briefing EN
Multimedia EN
Research for REGI Committee - Economic, Social and Territorial Situation in Martinique

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-02-2016
Author: Jacques LECARTE
Policy area: Regional Development
Keyword: institutional structure | labour market | region-EU relationship | Martinique | France | political situation | EU regional policy | peripheral region | EU financing | social situation | regional development | economic and social cohesion | economic situation
Summary: This in-depth analysis was written upon request of the Committee on Regional Development visiting Martinique, an outermost region of the EU, belonging to France. The analysis provides an overview of the region of Martinique, its political, economic and administrative system, and of the Operational Programme for the period of 2014-2020.

Cohesion in Mountainous Regions of the EU

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-02-2016
External author: Erik Gløersen, Martin F. Price, Andreja Borec, Thomas Dax and Benito Giordano
Policy area: Regional Development
Keyword: EU regional policy | environmental protection | sustainable development | hill farming | rural development | population dynamics | economic and social cohesion | mountain region | tourism | geographical distribution of the population | forestry economics | adaptation to climate change | regional economy
Summary: Their specific potentials and opportunities of mountain areas need to be considered as much as their challenges. Mountain areas are too diverse to elaborate an integrated European strategy. However, a framework for development strategies in mountain areas can be developed, taking into account the specific challenges and importance of mountain farming, the high levels of biodiversity in mountain areas, and their specific exposure to climate change. Cohesion policy could use such a framework to better address the demographic challenges of many mountain areas and to promote their economic and social development more efficiently with an enhanced sustainable development perspective. This also presupposes more flexible multi-level governance arrangements.

Beyond GDP: Regional development indicators

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 09-02-2016
Author: Agnieszka WIDUTO
Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues | Regional Development
Keyword: EU financing arrangements | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | statistical method | regional statistics | EU growth strategy | gross domestic product | economic indicator | regional development
Summary: The 'Beyond GDP' approach considers GDP (gross domestic product) insufficient to capture the multidimensional nature of progress and promotes the use of alternative indicators in policy. Although commonly used as an indicator of well-being, GDP is a measure of economic performance, reflecting production expressed in monetary terms. It does not account for social and environmental costs, nor does it reflect social and territorial inequalities. The recent crisis revealed that GDP figures alone can mask problems accumulating in the economy. Alternative indexes can enhance monitoring and guide policies towards balanced economic, social and environmental goals. The choice of indicators matters, as this has an impact upon policy design, monitoring and evaluation. To date a variety of alternative indicators have been developed by international organisations, statistical offices and NGOs (for instance, the Human Development Index and the Ecological Footprint) and are increasingly being used in policy-making, including at EU level. At the regional level, versions of global indexes exist alongside regionally designed indexes, but the availability and reliability of data requires improvement. In the EU context, the 'Beyond GDP' debate has been re-ignited in connection to a concrete example of GDP use in policy – the allocation of EU structural funding, for which the eligibility of regions is currently based solely on GDP. The ongoing debate on the post-2020 cohesion policy framework explores the possibility of using other indicators to allocate EU funding and assess territorial development.
Islands of the EU: Taking account of their specific needs in EU policy

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 29-01-2016
Author: Vasileios MARGARAS
Policy area: Regional Development
Keyword: island region | regional aid | less-favoured region | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | peripheral region | island | fund (EU) | regional development

Summary: Many EU Member States have islands and insular territories (e.g. archipelagos). Among these islands are several world famous tourist destinations, while they are home to considerable natural and cultural wealth. Certain islands also produce renowned agricultural products and handcrafts. However, islands also face considerable challenges. They may lack adequate transport links with the nearest mainland. Their ecosystems are vulnerable and natural resources are often scarce. Some are small and/or mountainous. Many are located on the periphery of a Member State, or constitute border regions, placing considerable limitations on their potential for economic growth. Islands are usually too small to allow economies of scale. They may lack human capital and possess limited public resources in health, education, research and innovation. More recently, the EU’s southern islands have seen a large influx of migrants, whilst lacking the resources needed for their accommodation or integration.

In most cases, islands are not self-sufficient in agricultural and industrial products or tertiary-sector services. They are usually reliant on imported fossil fuels and dependent on mainland energy networks. As the majority of products and services have to be transported to islands, prices are considerably higher, adding to the cost of living in insular territories. However, although the state of insularity creates a large number of problems, various studies suggest that islands can become ‘lands of opportunities’ by investing in their relative strengths.

Article 174 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) recognises the special nature of island territories. However, very few concrete EU measures have aimed to support islands to date. Several insular regions and municipalities call for the development of an ‘insular dimension’ in EU policies, and for EU regional policy to take insularity factors, that affect them disproportionately, into account. They also claim that due to the European Commission’s established method of regional funding –based on GDP – certain islands and insular territories are severely penalised.

European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (Sixth edition)

Publication type: Study
Date: 21-01-2016
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Stanislas DE FINANCE | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN
Keyword: single market | common commercial policy | EU policy | EU regional policy | area of freedom, security and justice | fiscal policy | EU law | common foreign and security policy | development policy | European Council | European social policy | climate change policy | competitiveness | energy policy | EU migration policy | operation of the Institutions | coordination of EMU policies | innovation | intellectual property | EU employment policy

Summary: Sixth edition. The European Council’s role - to ‘provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development’ and to define its ‘general political directions and priorities’ - has developed rapidly over the past five years. Since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the EP’s in-house research service and think tank, has been monitoring and analysing the delivery of the European Council on the various commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings. This overview, presented in the form of a Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date, is designed to review the degree of progress in realising the goals which the European Council set itself and to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in this area over the months and years ahead.
**Smart specialisation: The concept and its application to EU cohesion policy**

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 1-01-2016
Author: Vivienne HALLEUX

Policy area: Regional Development
Keyword: economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | competitiveness | entrepreneurship | EU growth strategy | research and development | EU financing | innovation | regional development

Summary: The persistent gap between European regions as regards research and innovation performance provides a strong case for policies tailored to the local context that foster structural change. This is where smart specialisation comes into play, providing a path for innovation-driven differentiation and economic transformation, building on local assets and comparative strengths. To achieve maximum impact, efforts and investments are expected to focus on a limited number of priorities, identified through a discovery process in which entrepreneurs play a central role.

This place-based approach and logic of prioritisation have been found to be broadly consistent with the overall reforms of EU cohesion policy, aiming to improve spending efficiency and impact. Consequently, having a research and innovation strategy for smart specialisation (RIS3) in place has become a prerequisite to receiving funding from the European Regional Development Fund. The link between RIS3 and cohesion policy is the subject of a report currently in preparation within the European Parliament Committee on Regional Development.

Initial assessments of smart specialisation strategies, carried out in early 2015, have so far delivered a mixed picture, notably regarding the choice of priorities, often considered as too generic or insufficiently connected to the regional economic and innovation structures. In 2016, a high-level conference will provide an opportunity for further, and more informed, evaluation of the implementation of the smart specialisation approach in the European Union.

**Bridging the rural-urban divide: Rural-urban partnerships in the EU**

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 05-01-2016
Author: Marie-Laure AUGÈRE-GRANIER

Policy area: Agriculture and Rural Development | Regional Development
Keyword: economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | town-country relationship | sustainable development | town and country planning | regional and local authorities | EU financing | EU programme | land use | urbanisation | rural development | regional development

Summary: In today's Europe, the traditional rural-urban dichotomy seems no longer relevant from a territorial development point of view. The boundaries of both rural and urban regions are becoming increasingly blurred, and traditional geographic definitions no longer fully reflect the reality of areas connected by a range of complex socio-economic linkages. At the European level, statistical methods have been refined to better reflect this complexity and provide a clearer view of the European Union's territory according to a new rural-urban typology. Both types of regions have different assets and resources which can be used in a complementary manner. At the rural/urban interface, however, conflicts can arise in connection to land use, whenever cities spread over what used to be agricultural land. Studies on the nature and extent of urban/rural linkages have identified the key concept of 'functional regions', which are defined by their socio-economic integration rather than by administrative boundaries. In all EU Member States, local and regional authorities have built rural-urban partnerships to better harness the potential of such regions. Over the past two decades, the EU has supported numerous projects and studies to assess the value of these partnerships and the way they can contribute to the objective of greater territorial cohesion. The policy framework for 2014-2020, which reflects the objectives of the EU 2020 strategy and offers better coordination of structural funds as well as new tools fostering integrated strategies, puts even greater emphasis on rural-urban interaction, allowing Member States to invest in mixed areas in a more targeted way. Please click here for the full publication in PDF format.

**Adriatic and Ionian Region: Socio-Economic Analysis and Assessment of Transport and Energy Links**

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-12-2015
External author: Kovacevic Aleksandar and Pagella Paolo

Policy area: Regional Development
Keyword: Ionian Sea | statistics | Adriatic Sea | Serbia | EU regional policy | Croatia | Slovenia | renewable energy | sustainable development | environmental policy | Bosnia and Herzegovina | socio-economic conditions | Italy | economic analysis | Montenegro | transport infrastructure | regional cooperation | Albania | energy policy | tourism | Greece | trans-European network | combined transport

Summary: This study is aimed at describing the socio-economic situation and the state of play of energy, transport and tourism linkages in the Adriatic and Ionian Region. It identifies development gaps between EU Member States and non-EU countries that participate in the European Union Strategy for the AIR. It also identifies risks and opportunities of the EU Strategy for Adriatic-Ionian Region and outlines the critical importance of these opportunities for the economic development of the AIR.

Study EN
European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (Fifth edition)

Publication type: Study  
Date: 13-10-2015  
Author: Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Josephine MOERMAN | Ralf DRACHENBERG | Susanna TENHUNEN | Stanislas DE FINANCE | Suzana Elena ANGHEL  
Keyword: common commercial policy | single market | EU regional policy | area of freedom, security and justice | fiscal policy | powers of the institutions (EU) | common foreign and security policy | development policy | European Council | European social policy | climate change policy | energy policy | competitiveness | coordination of EMU policies | EU research policy | EU employment policy

Summary: The European Council's role - to 'provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development' and to define its 'general political directions and priorities' - has developed rapidly over the past five years. Since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the EP's in-house research service and think tank, has been monitoring and analysing the delivery of the European Council on the various commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings. This overview, presented in the form of a Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date, is designed to review the degree of progress in realising the goals which the European Council set itself and to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in this area over the months and years ahead.

Study  EN

EU funding for culture: the regional dimension

Publication type: At a Glance  
Date: 08-10-2015  
Author: Magdalena PASIKOWSKA-SCHNASS  
Policy area: Culture | Tourism  
Keyword: EU regional policy | culture industry | heritage protection | EU programme | cultural tourism | small and medium-sized enterprises | regional development | cross-border cooperation | EU financing arrangements | regional cooperation | right to culture | fund (EU) | research and development | innovation

Summary: Although competence for culture policy lies with the Member States, various EU programmes and funds are available for cultural projects. The contribution of culture to regional development is increasingly recognised and EU regional funding can finance projects with a cultural dimension.

At a Glance  EN

Energy Union: the regional and local dimension

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 01-10-2015  
Author: Vivienne HALLEUX  
Policy area: Energy | Regional Development  
Keyword: single market | local government | cross-border cooperation | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | greenhouse gas | energy policy | Cohesion Fund | regional government | reduction of gas emissions | European Regional Development Fund | town planning

Summary: The Energy Union strategy, launched in February 2015, integrates all EU energy policy ambitions and objectives to date and seeks to capitalise on the various funds and initiatives already in place.

EU cohesion policy, aimed at ensuring balanced development across EU territory, will make a significant contribution to the fulfilment of the Energy Union's overarching goal of decarbonisation. For the period 2014-20, €38 billion will be available under the European Fund for Regional Development and the Cohesion Fund to support investments in the low-carbon economy. To help regions make best use of this funding, different expertise-sharing platforms have been established, notably in the field of research and innovation.

The local and regional levels are actively involved in on-the-ground delivery of EU energy policy ambitions. Useful lessons can be drawn from cooperation initiatives in place at this level, in view of a possible replication in other parts of Europe, contributing to further integration in the energy field. With almost 75% of the EU's population living in European cities, the Energy Union clearly has an urban dimension. Cooperation frameworks include the Covenant of Mayors and the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities.

Briefing  ES, EN

Tourism and the European Union: Recent trends and policy developments

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 25-09-2015
Author: Maria Niestadt
Policy area: Tourism
Keyword: travel | consumer protection | EU regional policy | economic statistics | admission of aliens | small and medium-sized enterprises | electronic commerce | economic consequence | tourist exchange | consumer behaviour | tourism policy | common transport policy | EU competence | Treaty of Lisbon

Summary: Tourism is the third largest socio-economic activity in the European Union, making an important contribution to the EU economy and to job creation. Europe is the most visited region in the world. However, tourism in other regions is growing faster and Europe’s market share, in terms of international tourist arrivals and receipts, is shrinking.

Tourism businesses in the EU are confronted with a number of changes in tourist profile and behaviour, for example in terms of age, country of origin, how they plan and buy their travel, or which mode of transport they use.

Tourism policy remains a competence of the Member States. As the Treaties allow the EU only to support, coordinate or supplement the actions of the Member States, EU tourism policy has been rather limited, consisting mainly in providing financial support or legislating through other EU policies. The current framework for tourism policy is based upon a 2010 Communication; a revised strategy is expected to be adopted by the European Commission later in 2015.

EU rural development policy

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 24-09-2015
Author: Marie-Laure AUGÈRE-GRANIER
Policy area: Agriculture and Rural Development
Keyword: co-financing | investment policy | regulation (EU) | EAFRD | EU regional policy | sustainable development | reform of the CAP | rural development | rural population | rural region | Lithuania | rural migration | Scotland | adaptation to climate change

Summary: The rural development concept has evolved significantly over recent decades to become a fully-fledged policy at European Union level. It has adapted to an enlarged Europe which, from 2004, welcomed 13 new countries, adding much diversity to an already strongly contrasted rural Europe. Adaptation was also needed to cope with important socio-economic and demographic changes affecting rural areas, and to face new challenges such as climate change, the production of energy from renewable sources, and the need for more competitive and sustainable agriculture. The new rural development policy for 2014-20, designed to improve quality of life in rural communities, seeks to address these issues and to harness the full potential of rural areas. It forms an integral part of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), reformed in 2013, and relies on an EU budget of more than €99.3 billion. The policy is fully aligned with the Europe 2020 strategy objectives for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. A particular feature of the policy is that national, regional and local authorities are responsible for designing and implementing their seven-year rural development programmes, based on EU priorities and a ‘menu’ of measures proposed in the European agricultural fund for rural development, which provides EU co financing. The increased flexibility of the new policy means that it offers support more closely tailored to the particular needs of each region or country. The European Parliament, as co-legislator for the reformed CAP, plays an active role in shaping rural development policy and pushed for measures for farmers and rural stakeholders more favourable than those originally tabled by the European Commission.

European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation as an Instrument for Promotion and Improvement of Territorial Cooperation in Europe

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-09-2015
External authors: Sabine Zillmer, Christian Lüer, Maria Toptsidou (Spatial Foresight) and Marcin Krzymuski (EGTC – Centre of Excellence, European University Viadrina); Erich Dallhammer, Max Kintisch and Bernd Schuh (ÖIR); Pietro Celotti, Alice Colin, Arta Preku and Nicola Brignani (t33); Bas Waterhout, Wil Zonneveld and Dominic Stead (Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands)
Policy area: Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Regional Development
Keyword: coordination of financing | Structural Funds | cross-border cooperation | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | Cohesion Fund | economic infrastructure | delegated legislation | intergovernmental cooperation (EU) | regional development | intergovernmental legal instrument

Summary: This study provides a critical analysis of EGTCs in light of their potential to improve territorial cooperation in Europe. On the basis of a literature review and case studies, the study offers insights into previous achievements of EGTCs, obstacles of their foundation and functioning as well as on their future perspectives. Recommendations have been derived to contribute to the opinion-forming process of the European Parliament about general lessons, future potentials and possibilities for further improving the instrument.

In-Depth Analysis DE, EN, FR

Briefing EN

Study EN
The urban dimension of EU policies
Publication type At a Glance
Date 02-09-2015
Author Christiaan VAN LIEROP
Policy area Regional Development
Keyword EU policy | EU regional policy | local authority | urban area | intergovernmental cooperation (EU) | town planning
Summary Towns and cities are home to over 70% of the EU's population, and many of the economic and environmental policy challenges facing Europe have an urban dimension. Within the EU, a shared vision of urban development has gradually taken shape at intergovernmental level. Over recent years there have been increasing calls for concrete actions at EU level and for the development of an EU urban agenda, which could facilitate greater coherence in policies affecting urban areas and give city authorities and stakeholders a greater input in decision-making processes.
At a Glance ES, DE, EN, FR, IT, PL

Investment for jobs and growth in EU regions
Publication type At a Glance
Date 02-09-2015
Author Agnieszka WIDUTO
Policy area Employment | Regional Development
Keyword investment policy | cross-border cooperation | economic growth | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | job creation | European Social Fund | Cohesion Fund | European Regional Development Fund | economic infrastructure | small and medium-sized enterprises
Summary Cohesion policy is the EU's main investment policy, with a budget of over €350 billion for the 2014-20 period. It supports investments in employment, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), environment and infrastructure. The sixth cohesion report, published by the European Commission in July 2014, analyses the impact, evolution and future prospects of cohesion policy.
At a Glance ES, DE, EN, FR, IT, PL

Cohesion Policy implementation in the EU28
Publication type At a Glance
Date 01-09-2015
Author Sorina IONESCU | Christian DIETRICH
Policy area Budget | Regional Development
Keyword investment policy | EU financing arrangements | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | EU Member State | European Social Fund | Cohesion Fund | European Regional Development Fund | EU statistics
Summary EU Regional Policy is an investment policy. Via various funding programmes, it supports job creation, competitiveness, economic growth, improved quality of life and sustainable development. These investments contribute to the delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy. Regional policy also aims to reduce the economic, social and territorial disparities between Europe's regions.
At a Glance EN

How the EU budget is spent: The European Structural and Investment Funds
Publication type Briefing
Date 15-07-2015
Author Magdalena SAPALA
Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | Regional Development
Keyword co-financing | regulation (EU) | coordination of financing | EU financing arrangements | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | EU Member State | fund (EU) | general budget (EU) | multiannual financial framework
Summary Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, known as the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR), aims to ensure smooth and consistent implementation of the five European Structural and Investment Funds: the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. The principles and rules included in this Regulation cover more than 41% of planned EU spending in 2014-20.
Briefing EN
Territorial Governance and Cohesion Policy

Publication type: Study
Date: 06-07-2015
External author: Kai Böhme, Sabine Zillmer, Maria Toptsidou and Frank Holstein (Spatial Foresight, Luxembourg)
Policy area: Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Regional Development
Keyword: governance | public administration | EU financing arrangements | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | EU growth strategy | town and country planning | decision-making | regional development
Summary: Territorial governance is a relatively new and complex concept. It brings together the place-based approach and multi-level governance. This analysis supports the understanding of territorial governance, mainly with regard to EU Cohesion Policy. Depending on the institutional and political context, as well as past experience, territorial governance in Cohesion Policy can have different forms. In all cases, stakeholders must have institutional capacity.

European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (Fourth edition)

Publication type: Study
Date: 17-06-2015
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN | Stanislas DE FINANCE | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Josephine MOERMAN
Keyword: common commercial policy | single market | EU regional policy | area of freedom, security and justice | fiscal policy | powers of the institutions (EU) | common foreign and security policy | development policy | European Council | European social policy | climate change policy | energy policy | competitiveness | coordination of EMU policies | EU research policy | EU employment policy
Summary: In this fourth edition of the overview of European Council Conclusions, presented in the form of a Rolling Check-List of Commitments, the European Council Oversight Unit has been monitoring and analysing the delivery of the European Council on the commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings, as well as its various responsibilities either in law or on the basis of intergovernmental agreements. The Check-List covers eight broad policy areas: Financial and Economic Affairs; Employment and Social Policies; Competitiveness; Climate and Energy Policy; Freedom, Security and Justice; External Policies; Development; and Regional Policy. This compendium is designed to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in the months and years ahead.

The Cohesion Policy Dimension of the Implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-06-2015
Author: Diana HAASE
Policy area: Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Regional Development
Keyword: investment policy | economic growth | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | sustainable development | EU policy - national policy | fund (EU) | division of powers | regional development
Summary: This analysis provides input to the own-initiative report on “Cohesion policy and the review of the Europe 2020 strategy”. The analysis focuses on three key themes: the (reciprocal) relationship between cohesion policy and the Europe 2020 strategy in the present and the previous programming period, the governance aspects (ownership and responsibility) and the territorial dimension of the strategy.

Study EN
The EU Strategy for the Danube Region

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 21-05-2015  
Author: Vivienne HALLEUX

Policy area: Regional Development
Keyword: Romania | Czechia | Serbia | EU regional policy | Austria | Croatia | Slovenia | EU financing | Ukraine | Bosnia and Herzegovina | regional development | Hungary | watercourse | Montenegro | Germany | regional cooperation | economic and social cohesion | European Region | Slovakia | Bulgaria | Moldova | civil society

Summary: Responding to the objective of achieving territorial cohesion, the macro-regional approach promoted by the European Union has gained momentum since 2009 and has been put into practice, first in the Baltic Sea Region and subsequently in the Danube River Basin and the Adriatic-Ionian Region through the implementation of strategies targeted at each of these areas, the Danube Region Strategy being one such example. Now that these first macro-regional strategies have been in operation for a few years, efforts have been made to draw initial lessons from them by assessing their results, the added value of the concept, and the suitability of the governance model applied. Reports from the European Commission, while highlighting the strategies’ impact in terms of projects, coordination and integration, promotion of multi-level governance and territorial cohesion, underline the need for stronger political backing, commitment and leadership from the participating countries and regions. Stakeholders have called for a more streamlined policy structure, criticised the limited involvement of civil society organisations, local and regional actors in planning and decision-making processes, and pointed to capacity shortcomings impeding their participation. The question of capacities and resources is of critical importance. As macro-regional strategies do not bring additional EU funding, the participating countries or regions are expected to do more with what is available to address the challenges and opportunities requiring their cooperation. Putting this principle into practice is not a smooth process. This is especially true for the Danube macro-region, which is very diverse in membership. It covers 14 countries whose development levels and status in relation to the European Union (including their access to EU funding as a result of the latter) are not the same. The wide disparities between the partners have a significant impact on the operation of the strategy.

Briefing EN, FR

Safeguarding biological diversity: EU policy and international agreements

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis  
Date: 01-04-2015  
Author: Didier BOURGUIGNON

Policy area: Environment
Keyword: environmental statistics | protected area | EU regional policy | protection of animal life | environmental law | sustainable forest management | EU financing | biotope | biodiversity | sustainable agriculture | EU environmental policy | protected species | climate change policy | international convention | common fisheries policy

Summary: Biodiversity, the diversity of life on earth at all levels, is declining, mainly as a result of human-induced pressures such as over-exploitation of natural resources, loss of viable habitats, pollution, climate change or invasive alien species. EU biodiversity policy is based on the Birds and Habitats Directives, which served as the basis for the development of the Natura 2000 network of protected sites now covering 1 million square kilometres on land (or 18% of EU land area) and 250 000 square kilometres of marine sites. The policy is driven by the biodiversity strategy setting ambitious aims for 2020 (halting the loss of biodiversity) and 2050 (protecting and valuing biodiversity and ecosystem services), with the addition of a strategy on green infrastructure. The European Commission estimates that the Natura 2000 network delivers benefits worth between €200 and €300 billion per year, against management costs estimated at €5.8 billion per year. The LIFE Programme co-finances some measures related to biodiversity, especially as regards Natura 2000. Funding aimed at protecting biodiversity is also available under the agricultural, regional, fisheries, and research policies. The European Parliament has long been supportive of EU biodiversity protection policy. Developments in EU biodiversity policy include a process of ‘biodiversity proofing’ of the EU budget, improved monitoring, definition of priorities for the restoration of degraded ecosystems, ‘biodiversity offsetting’ of unavoidable residual impacts, and a ‘fitness check’ of EU nature legislation.

In-Depth Analysis DE, EN, FR

Review of regime for agriculture in the outermost regions (POSEI): Implementation Appraisal

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 21-01-2015  
Author: Ina KRANJCEVIC | Gabriella ZANA-SZABO

Policy area: Transposition and Implementation of Law | Agriculture and Rural Development
Keyword: coordination of financing | French overseas department and region | France | EU regional policy | peripheral region | EU programme | economic analysis | Spain | regional aid | economic and social cohesion | Portugal | Madeira | Azores | fund (EU) | Canary Islands | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | agri-foodstuffs

Summary: This Implementation Appraisal focuses on Regulation 228/2013 on laying down specific measures for agriculture in the outermost regions of the Union and repealing Regulation 247/2006, which is the basic act for the POSEI regime.

POSEI - the French acronym for Programmes d'Options Spécialisées à l'Agriculture; l'Éloiement et l'Agro; l'Insularité & l'Agro; - is a scheme that supports the incomes of farmers and the supply of essential products to the outermost regions of the European Union. The scheme compensates farmers for extra costs of production and marketing due to the small size of these territories, their topography and climate, and more difficult access to European markets. The European Parliament, as well as the EESC and CoR have repeatedly called for more involvement of the outermost regions in Structural and Cohesion Funds. Both the Parliament and the European Court of Auditors have called on Commission to monitor more regularly the effectiveness of the specific measures.

Briefing EN

Publication type Briefing
Date 15-01-2015
Author Diana HAASE
Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Regional Development
Keyword economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | fund (EU) | interinstitutional relations (EU)
Summary 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 this new version is the first update in 2015, which will be reviewed upon availability of further details (e.g. roadmap/calendar of initiatives) about the Commission’s work programme for 2015. The briefing includes a detailed (but non-exhaustive) timetable of policy actions connected with the implementation of the European Structural and Investment Funds in 2015, together with an overview of major actions for the remainder of the programming period, from 2016.

New Role of Macro-Regions in European Territorial Cooperation

Publication type Study
Date 15-01-2015
External author Bernd Schuh, Max Kintisch, Erich Dallhammer and Arta Preku (ÖIR) ; Erik Gieersen, Maria Toptsidou and Kai Böhme (Spatial Foresight) ; Alessandro Valenza, Pietro Celotti, Nicola Brignani and Berardino Cristino (i3s) ; Dominic Stead, Will Zonneveld and Bas Waterhout (Delft University of Technology)
Policy area Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Regional Development
Keyword governance | coordination of financing | cross-border cooperation | regional cooperation | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | regional disparity | case study
Summary This study provides a critical analysis of the future role of macro-regions in the implementation of European Territorial Cooperation. On the basis of a literature review and case studies, the study offers an assessment of potential benefits in the development of new macro-regional strategies as well as the most common risks and difficulties in their implementation. Recommendations are derived to inform the position of the European Parliament on how it can efficiently support the creation and implementation of new macro-regional strategies.

Commitments Made at the Hearing of Corina Creţu - Commissioner-Designate

Publication type Briefing
Date 15-10-2014
Author Marek KOLODZIEJSKI
Policy area Forward Planning | Regional Development
Keyword investment policy | Romania | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | European Commissioner | public hearing | appointment of members | fund (EU) | interinstitutional cooperation (EU) | fraud against the EU | regional development
Summary In her answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 2 October 2014 before the Committee on Regional Development, commissioner-designate Corina Creţu made a number of commitments. Commitments relevant to the Committee on Regional Development are presented in this document.

Corina Creţu - Regional Policy - Hearings of European Commissioners-designate

Publication type Briefing
Date 24-09-2014
Author Ariane DEBYSER
Policy area Regional Development
Keyword Romania | EP Committee | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | European Commissioner | public hearing | appointment of members
Summary The Commissioner-designate for Regional Policy is Corina Creţu (Romania). Her hearing will take place before the Committee on Regional Development on Wednesday 1 October 2014 (09.00-12.00).

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 15-07-2014  
Author: Diana HAASE  
Policy area: Regional Development  
Keyword: economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | fund (EU) | interinstitutional relations (EU)  
Summary: 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. This briefing includes a detailed (but nonexhaustive) timetable of policy actions connected with the implementation of the European Structural and Investment Funds in 2014 and 2015, together with an overview of major actions for the remainder of the programming period, from 2016.

Impact of the Economic Crisis on Social, Economic and Territorial Cohesion of the European Union

Publication type: Study  
Date: 16-06-2014  
External author: Simona Milio in cooperation with: Riccardo Crescenzi, Waltraud Schelkle, Niccolo Durazzi, Elitsa Garnizova, Pawel Janowski, Agnieszka Olechnicka, Davide Luca and Maria Fossarello  
Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues | Regional Development  
Keyword: Structural Funds | EU regional policy | EU Member State | Cohesion Fund | regional policy | Italy | impact study | economic consequence | Poland | Germany | economic and social cohesion | Bulgaria | economic recession | regional economy | economic situation  
Summary: The impact of the economic and financial crisis that started in 2008 is still being felt. In November 2008, the European Commission launched a European Economic Recovery Plan with a view to coordinate Member States’ action in response to the crisis. In this context, the Study uses a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods in order to provide an overview of the impact of the crisis across Member States and regions, in terms of economic, social and territorial cohesion, and to assess the responses of cohesion policy to counteract the crisis. Volume II of the study (containing case studies on Italy, Germany, Poland and Bulgaria) is available under Annex.

European Economic Governance and Cohesion Policy

Publication type: Study  
Date: 15-01-2014  
External author: Iain Begg and Corrado Macchiarelli (LSE) ; John Bachtler, Carlos Mendez and Fiona Wishlade (EPRC)  
Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues | Regional Development  
Keyword: governance | EU financing arrangements | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | institutional reform | fiscal policy | coordination of EMU policies | powers of the institutions (EU) | banking supervision | European Central Bank  
Summary: This study analyses the interactions between the wide-ranging economic governance reforms undertaken since 2008 and Cohesion Policy. It details the main changes and analyses how the aims of Cohesion Policy are likely to be affected. It also highlights the challenges of assuring legitimacy and of suitable formulation of Cohesion Policy as especially salient issues for the European Parliament, not least because of the expanded roles in economic governance of the European Commission and the European Central Bank.

EU Cohesion Policy 2014-20

Publication type: At a Glance  
Date: 14-11-2013  
Author: Ivana KATSAROVA  
Policy area: Regional Development  
Keyword: co-financing | coordination of financing | EU financing arrangements | regional aid | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | transport network | Cohesion Fund  
Summary: The EU's Cohesion Policy provides the framework for a wide range of programmes aimed at increasing economic growth and social cohesion and reducing disparities among the Member States (MS) and their 270 regions. Perceived weaknesses of the current arrangements include complexity, inadequate integration with other policies, and low absorption rates in many MS.
Aspect of Durability in the Assessment of Effectiveness of Support for Businesses under Structural and Cohesion Funds

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 16-09-2013  
**External author** Blomeyer & Sanz  
**Policy area** Budget | Budgetary Control | Financial and Banking Issues | Regional Development | Industry  
**Keyword** impact study | EU aid | Structural Funds | business activity | aid to undertakings | EU regional policy | Cohesion Fund | financial regulation | small and medium-sized enterprises  
**Summary** This study reviews experience with the sustainability of business support interventions under the European Union’s Structural Funds (focus on experience under the programming period 2007-2013). Moreover, the study highlights best practices from selected Member States to contribute to further strengthening the sustainability of business support. Finally, a series of conclusions and recommendations focus on the regulation, measurement, and enforcement of sustainability. The study was conducted in the first half of 2013 on the basis of desk research, stakeholder consultations, surveys and case study work.

Internet, Digital Agenda and Economic Development of European Regions

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 16-09-2013  
**External author** CSIL Centre for Industrial Studies (Italy) and PPMI Public Policy and Management Institute (Lithuania)  
**Policy area** Research Policy | Regional Development  
**Keyword** Internet | regional investment | Structural Funds | Information society | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | innovation | economic infrastructure | digital technology | new technology  
**Summary** This study describes the links between investments in Information and Communication Technologies and economic development at regional level, with particular emphasis on the strategy “Digital Agenda for Europe” and the contribution of Structural Funds. It is based on an in-depth analysis of seven regional case studies, and of horizontal issues at national and EU levels. It illustrates the growth potential that may result from an appropriate articulation between initiatives at the regional, national and EU levels.

How Can Regional and Cohesion Policies Tackle Demographic Challenges?

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 16-09-2013  
**External author** Project Direction: Manuela Samek Lodovici (IRS), Operative Coordinator: Monica Patrizio (IRS), IRS, Institute for Social research (Milan); Manuela Samek Lodovici, Claudio Calvaresi, Davide Barbieri, Sandra Naaf (Thuringia-Germany), Monica Patrizio, Flavia Pesce (Thuringia-Germany and Basilicata-Italy), Cristina Vasilescu (Centru-Romania), Giulia Rossi (Basilicata-Italy), Gabriele Solazzi, Maria Letizia Tanturri, CSIL, Centre for Industrial Studies (Milan); Silvia Vignetti, Gelsomina Catalano (Lincolnshire-United Kingdom), Julie Pellegrin, Davide Sartori (Castilla La Mancha-Spain), Emanuela Sirtori (Province de Liège, Walloon-Belgium, Malta), PPMI, Public Policy and Management Institute (Vilnius); Brozaitis Haroldas, Krystyna Iglicka (Loer Silesian-Poland), Lisa Hörnström (Östra Mellansverige-Sweden), Repeckaitė Dovilė Žvalionytė (Lithuania)  
**Policy area** Social Policy | Regional Development  
**Keyword** migration policy | EU regional policy | population ageing | peripheral region | mountain region | life expectancy | fund (EU) | fertility | demographic analysis  
**Summary** This study provides an overview of regional demographic structures and trends in the EU with the focus on their likely effects on socio-economic and territorial cohesion and the role of Cohesion Policy in addressing demographic change. In detail it analyses how and to what extent the 2007-13 European Cohesion Policy and Structural Funds have been tackling demographic change at the regional level in order to derive useful indications on how Cohesion Policy actions could be more effective in the future programming period (2014-2020). The study contains a literature and data review on demographic and spatial trends in the EU regions and the main policy developments; a review of Cohesion Policy programming documents for 2007-2013; an in-depth field analysis of ten regional case studies and good practices and finally, a horizontal reading of the main findings to draw conclusions and policy recommendations for the 2014-2020 programming period.

**Executive summary** BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, HR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV

**Annex I** EN

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23-02-2020  
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Integrated Urban Transport Plans and Cohesion Policy

Publication type Study
Date 15-11-2012
External author Stefan Klug, Wolfgang Schade and André Kühn (Fraunhofer Institute for System and Innovation Research ISI), Bettina Kampman and Arno Schrotten (CE Delft), Samantha Jones and David Blackledge (Transport and Travel Research Ltd - TTR)
Policy area Transport | Regional Development
Keyword transport infrastructure | transport planning | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | sustainable mobility | urban transport | town-planning scheme | urban area | new technology
Summary The study deals with the interaction between integrated urban transport plans (sustainable urban mobility/transport plans, SUMP) and the cohesion policy of the European Union. After tackling the concept of SUMP and the role of transport/urban transport in cohesion policy, eight case studies analyse the link between integrated urban transport planning and funding for transport policies/projects by cohesion policy. Finally, the study provides policy recommendations including on the 2011 cohesion policy reform proposals.
Study EN
Executive summary BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV
Annex I EN

Use of Structural Funds for Cultural Projects

Publication type Study
Date 10-09-2012
External author María Iglesias, Philippe Kern and Valentina Montalto (KEA European Affairs)
Policy area Culture | Regional Development
Keyword dissemination of culture | Structural Funds | cultural event | artistic creation | EU regional policy | culture industry | cultural heritage | innovation | cultural promotion
Summary EU policies are moving towards a comprehensive understanding of culture as a tool contributing to urban regeneration, attractiveness, entrepreneurship, innovation, jobs and sustainability. Cities and regions are going through the same path. Unfortunately, the new Cohesion Policy proposal for 2014-2020 only partially captures the pervasiveness of cultural investment. This report analyses the use of Structural Funds (SFs) in the period 2007-2013 and provides advice on how to facilitate access to SFs for culture under the new Policy.
Study DE, EN, FR
Executive summary BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV

Economic, Social and Territorial Situation of France

Publication type Study
Date 15-08-2012
Author Marek KOŁODZIEJSKI
Policy area Social Policy | Economics and Monetary Issues | Regional Development
Keyword regions of France | coordination of financing | Structural Funds | France | EU regional policy | EU policy - national policy | economic situation
Summary This note provides an overview of France, its political, economic and administrative system, together with a description of European Union support to France, and the Operational Programmes contained in the National Strategic Reference Framework for the period 2007-2013. Special attention is given to the border between France and Spain in the Languedoc-Roussillon and the cross-border cooperation of the local and regional authorities in this area. The note has been prepared in the context of the Committee on Regional Development’s delegation to France, 29-31 October 2012.
Study ES, EN, FR

Financial management, control and audit in Cohesion Policy

Publication type Briefing
Date 29-06-2012
Author Ivana KATSAROVA
Policy area Budget | Budgetary Control | Regional Development
Keyword Structural Funds | financial management | European Anti-fraud Office | EU regional policy | Cohesion Fund | financial control | financial regulation | general budget (EU) | audit
Summary The Cohesion Policy budget – €347 billion for the period 2007-2013 – is controlled and spent under a system of "shared management" between the European Commission and the Member States. This system consists of multiple financial management, control and audit bodies at national and EU levels, which ultimately aim to guarantee proper spending of EU money. Non-compliance with the rules and conditions attached to EU funding disqualifies expenditure from reimbursement, and may even entail the interruption or suspension of payments.
Briefing EN
How to Integrate the EU Flagship Initiatives into Cohesion Policy

**Publication type**  Study  
**Date**  15-06-2012  
**External author**  Herta Tödtling–Schönhofer, Christine Hamza, Angelos Sanopoulos and Alice Radzyner (Metis GmbH), John Bachtler and Stefan Kah (EPRC, University of Strathclyde)  
**Policy area**  Regional Development  
**Keyword**  Structural Funds | EU action | energy efficiency | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | Cohesion Fund | EU growth strategy | regional and local authorities | innovation | digital technology  
**Summary**  This study focuses on the Europe 2020 strategy with particular reference to its seven Flagship initiatives (Innovation Union, Digital Agenda, Industrial Policy, Resource-efficient Europe, Youth on the Move, New Skills and Jobs, and the European Platform against Poverty). It explores their coherence with Cohesion Policy with a view to the 2014-20 programming period and identifies ways of integrating the Flagship initiatives into the future Common Strategic Framework. Using a number of detailed case studies, the report thoroughly examines experience in the implementation of the Lisbon strategy in the context of the Structural Funds. Detailed roadmaps are provided for each Flagship initiative, indicating what, when, how and by whom actions should be carried out over short-, medium- and long-term perspectives. Lastly, the report delivers recommendations related to the implementation of the Flagship initiatives using Cohesion Policy instruments.

Study  DE, EN, FR

Executive summary  BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV

Annex I  EN

Public Procurement and Cohesion Policy

**Publication type**  Study  
**Date**  15-06-2012  
**External author**  Jürgen Pucher, Christine Hamza, Michael Leckey and Herta Tödtling–Schönhofer (Metis GmbH)  
**Policy area**  Regional Development | EU Law: Legal System and Acts  
**Keyword**  simplification of legislation | public contract | Structural Funds | public-private partnership | EU regional policy | fraud | financial control | competition | fraud against the EU | small and medium-sized enterprises | project management  
**Summary**  This study explores the connection between two major areas of public interest: Public procurement and Cohesion policy, starting with an explanation of how and where procurement is applied in the context of Cohesion policy, then analysing the current situation in the EU, the transposition of procurement regulations into national law and the ongoing reform of the legal framework. The significance of procurement in the EU Cohesion policy is the main focus of the study. Examples of representative practical experience are used to complement the information gained by desk research. A series of interviews with practitioners in Cohesion policy has facilitated the development of a number of recommendations of the study.

Study  DE, EN, FR

Executive summary  BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV

Simplification and Proportionality in Management and Control Systems of Cohesion Policy

**Publication type**  Study  
**Date**  15-05-2012  
**External author**  Angelika Kronberger and Isabel Naylon (Metis GmbH), Rolf Bergs (PRAC Bergs & Issa Partnership Co.)  
**Policy area**  Budgetary Control | Regional Development  
**Keyword**  simplification of legislation | Structural Funds | budgetary control | EU regional policy | administrative formalities | supervisory body | Cohesion Fund | financial control | financial year | audit  
**Summary**  The European Commission proposal for a Regulation on common provisions for Structural and Cohesion Funds 2014-2020 includes proposals for simplification and proportionality through the merger of authorities, a new system of accreditation and annual clearance and rolling closure of accounts. These proposals raise a number of issues and have met with considerable resistance on the part of the Member States and the European Court of Auditors. This briefing note seeks to highlight the arguments and propose recommendations for dealing with these issues.

Study  DE, EN, FR
The Partnership Contracts – How to Implement Multilevel Governance and to Guarantee the Flexibility of Cohesion Policy

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-05-2012
External author: Jürgen Pucher, Isabel Naylon and Andreas Resch (Metis GmbH)
Policy area: Financial and Banking Issues | Regional Development
Keyword: governance | coordination of financing | financial management | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | regional and local authorities | integrated development | action programme | regional development
Summary: This briefing note presents an analysis of how the Partnership Contracts for the funding period 2014-2020 can be implemented regarding issues of multilevel governance and how the flexibility in the EU Cohesion Policy can be guaranteed. The note examines the following: an analysis of the Draft Regulation proposed by the European Commission; experiences from the current period regarding multilevel governance and partnership in programming; and experiences from the current period regarding policy coordination. The synthesis of the above analytical steps provides a risk assessment related to possible interpretations of the Partnership Contract.

EU funding for outermost and sparsely populated regions

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 23-03-2012
Author: Ivana KATSAROVA
Policy area: Regional Development
Keyword: EU aid | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | peripheral region | fund (EU) | Community fisheries | common agricultural policy
Summary: The EU will invest over €12 billion in outermost and sparsely populated regions between 2007 and 2013. Those regions need special attention from the EU because of their specific constraints, including remoteness, insularity, small size, harsh climatic conditions, and economic dependence on a limited number of products. EU measures include special allocations as well as specific supply arrangements and programmes to encourage the development of local agricultural products.

Economic, Social and Territorial Situation of Denmark

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-03-2012
Author: Marek KOŁODZIEJSKI
Policy area: Social Policy | Economics and Monetary Issues | Regional Development
Keyword: Structural Funds | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | distribution of EU funding | Denmark | economic situation
Summary: This Note provides an overview of the Danish economic, political and administrative framework for EU Cohesion policy, as well as its National Strategic Reference Framework for the period 2007-2013. The paper gives also an insight into the Danish position on the future of Cohesion policy and the priorities of the EU Presidency from 1 January - 30 June 2012. The Note has been prepared in the context of the Committee on Regional Development's delegation to Denmark, March 2012.

Barriers for Applicants to Structural Funding

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-02-2012
External author: Herta Tödtling-Schönhofer and Christine Hamza (Metis GmbH), Laura Polverari and John Bachtler (EPRC, University of Strathclyde)
Policy area: Regional Development | Industry
Keyword: co-financing | project evaluation | Structural Funds | dissemination of information | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | administrative formalities | regional and local authorities | audit | small and medium-sized enterprises
Summary: This study analyses the factors which facilitate or discourage local stakeholders’ and businesses’ decision to apply for support from Structural Funds (SF). In the current recession it is vital to attract as many applicants as possible. Through a wide-ranging literature review, case studies, questionnaires and interviews, this study tries to answer questions about what can be done to attract more applications, and how the participation of successful applicants can be made more effective. It puts forward a number of specific recommendations for policy makers at local, regional, national and EU level.
EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020: what will change

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 07-02-2012  
Author: Ivana KATSAROVA  
Policy area: Employment | Regional Development  
Keyword: Structural Funds | less-favoured region | EU regional policy | Cohesion Fund | distribution of EU funding | regional integration | financing level  
Summary: In October 2011, the European Commission unveiled its proposals for EU Cohesion Policy for the 2014-2020 period, which is expected to better reflect the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy and simplify the Structural and Cohesion Funds regulations.

Impact and effectiveness of Structural Funds and EU policies aimed at SMEs in the regions

Publication type: Study  
Date: 15-11-2011  
External author: Metis GmbH: Herta Tödtling–Schönhofer, Christine Hamza, Franz Tödtling, Marlene Hahn, Andreas Resch  
EPRC, University of Strathclyde: Laura Polverari, John Bachtler  
Policy area: Regional Development | Industry  
Keyword: impact study | coordination of financing | economic consequence | Structural Funds | EU regional policy | competitiveness | administrative formalities | innovation | small and medium-sized enterprises | financial instrument  
Summary: This study provides a description of the general nature of SMEs and their development factors as well as the support that Cohesion Policy and other EU policies provide to SMEs. It then assesses practical aspects and effects of Cohesion Policy on enterprises and SMEs on the basis of a review of published materials and eight case studies drawn from SME-relevant ERDF OPs from 2007-2013; where possible, it also includes lessons learnt from 2000-2006. The conclusions and policy recommendations put forward clearly highlight the complex relationship between EU policies and SMEs as final beneficiaries of support in the EU multilevel governance system.

Comparative Study on the Visions and Options for Cohesion Policy after 2013

Publication type: Study  
Date: 15-08-2011  
External author: Carlos Mendez, John Bachtler and Fiona Wishlade (European Policies Research Centre - EPRC)  
Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues | Regional Development  
Keyword: project evaluation | coordination of financing | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | Cohesion Fund | distribution of EU funding | project management | regional development  
Summary: This study provides a critical analysis of EU Cohesion Policy reform perspectives for the post-2013 period. On the basis of a literature review and budgetary modelling, the study offers an assessment of the policy’s strengths and weaknesses, the main reform ideas and counter-positions, including the implications of different reform proposals. Recommendations are derived to inform the position of the European Parliament in the upcoming negotiations on the legislative package of regulations.

The Role of Regional Policy in Addressing the Effects of Climate Change in Outermost Regions

Publication type: Study  
Date: 15-07-2011  
External author: Bernd Schuh (Österreichisches Institut für Raumplanung - ÖIR);  
Herbert Formeyer and Heidelinde Trimmel (Universität für Bodenkultur Wien - BOKU)  
Policy area: Environment | Regional Development  
Keyword: climate change | Structural Funds | overseas countries and territories | EU environmental policy | EU regional policy | environmental protection | peripheral region | cost-effectiveness analysis | natural disaster  
Summary: This study explores potential effects of climate change on the Outermost regions and presents the measures and initiatives within EU Regional Policy supporting mitigation and/or adaption of these regions to climate change. The objective of the study is to enlarge the knowledge about potential threats of climate change in the Outermost regions and to assess the role of Regional Policy in this context.
An introduction to EU regional policy
Publication type: Briefing
Date: 28-03-2011
Author: Christopher NEEDHAM
Policy area: Regional Development
Keyword: Structural Funds | EU regional policy | economic convergence | competitiveness | regional disparity | job creation | Cohesion Fund | regional and local authorities | social integration | regional development
Summary: With 35% (£348 billion) of the EU budget for the current 2007-2013 programmes, regional policy (RP) is a significant part of EU activities.

EU Subsidies for Polluting and Unsustainable Practices
Publication type: Study
Date: 15-02-2011
External author: Arkaitz USUBIAGA (Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy), Philipp SCHEPELMANN (Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy), Bettina BAHN-WALKOWIAK (Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy), Matthias ALTMANN (Ludwig-Bölkow-Systemtechnik GmbH), Ruta LANDGREBE (Ecologic Institute) and Ralph PIOTROWSKI (Ecologic Institute)
Policy area: Environment | Transport | Energy | Budgetary Control | Agriculture and Rural Development | Fisheries | Regional Development
Keyword: EU aid | EU regional policy | environmental protection | sustainable development | common transport policy | EU financing | common fisheries policy | pollution control | common agricultural policy | support policy
Summary: The report provides an overview of the environmental relevance of the largest fields of expenditure within the EU budget. Based on existing methodologies, it assesses the sustainability level of key budget items in the EU sectoral policies. It also provides recommendations in the context of a potential reform of subsidies that would contribute to the alignment of the EU budget towards a more sustainable growth as called in the EU2020 Strategy.

Structural and Cohesion Policies and the Fight against Poverty
Publication type: Study
Date: 14-01-2011
Author: Goncalo MACEDO | Kathrin Maria RUDOLF | Jesus IBORRA MARTIN | Felice ADINOLFI
Policy area: Culture | Transport | Agriculture and Rural Development | Fisheries | Regional Development | Education
Keyword: poverty | education policy | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | economic recession | cultural policy | common transport policy | common fisheries policy | common agricultural policy | social integration
Summary: This note examines what role, if any, the EU's 'structural policies' play in fighting poverty and social exclusion. The latter include regional policy, the Common Agricultural Policy, the Common Fisheries Policy, the Common Transport Policy and education/culture policies. It also analyses these policies and sectors against the background of the economic and financial crisis.

Development of the EU’s outermost regions
Publication type: Briefing
Date: 08-10-2010
Author: Tiago FREITAS
Policy area: Agriculture and Rural Development | Regional Development
Keyword: EU aid | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | peripheral region | fund (EU) | innovation | economic analysis
Summary: Article 349 TFEU recognizes Outermost Regions (ORs) as having special structural, social and economic handicaps due to their remoteness, insularity, small size, difficult topography and climate, and economic dependence on a few products. The same article clearly identifies these regions: the Azores and Madeira (to Portugal), the Canary Islands (to Spain), Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana, Réunion, Saint-Barthélemy and Saint-Martin (to France). Being an integral part of the EU, EU treaties and laws are fully applicable. However, ORs benefit in EU law from a specific integration status. It is against this background that ORs have benefited, for example, from special provisions in the Structural Funds and special financing mechanisms such as the POSEI, in an attempt to tackle their handicaps and close the cohesion gap with the rest of the EU.
Simplification of Audit Procedures and Shared Management in Cohesion Policy

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis  
Date: 15-07-2010

External author: Roland Blomeyer, Blomeyer & Sanz

Policy area: Financial and Banking Issues | Regional Development

Keyword: Structural Funds | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | administrative formalities | financial control | audit

Summary: This note analyses recent Structural Funds simplification measures with regard to their impact on the management and control systems under shared management. Until now, only a modest reduction of the Member States' administrative burden has been achieved. The focus on control deflects attention from content, and Member State stakeholders support further reform. Moreover, potential opportunities for efficient simplification are identified, such as enhancing the proportionality of management and control requirements and streamlining control and audit.

The issues covered by this note were presented and discussed in the framework of the Workshop "Simplification in Cohesion Policy", held at the European Parliament on 21 June 2010.

Member State difficulties with Structural Funds management and control systems in the programming period 2007-13

Publication type: Study  
Date: 14-05-2010

External author: Blomeyer & Sanz - Guadalajara (Spain)

Policy area: Budgetary Control

Keyword: Structural Funds | financial management | EU regional policy | financial control | financial regulation | audit

Summary: Member States have experienced difficulties over the establishment of 2007-2013 structural funds management and control systems, which are linked to the applicable rules, the organisational arrangements, human resources and the tools required. While strengthened control requirements seem to have contributed to reducing error rates, such difficulties have affected the rate of interim payments. Besides, structural funds regulatory framework is considered to have introduced more clarity but the focus on control requirements seem no longer proportionate, deflecting Structural Funds managers’ attention from content issues. Recommendations are issued to address the weaknesses identified.

The Role of National Parliaments in Regional Policy under the Treaty of Lisbon

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis  
Date: 15-03-2010

Author: Esther KRAMER

Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Regional Development

Keyword: autonomy | principle of subsidiarity | State aid | EU regional policy | national parliament | powers of the EP | services of general interest | Treaty of Lisbon | European Parliament | decision-making

Summary: This note describes the impact of the Treaty of Lisbon on Regional Policy in general and on the role of National Parliaments in particular. The introduction of new provisions concerns the legislative procedures, the scope and the governance system of Regional Policy. Despite some limitations, the overall political impact of the Lisbon Treaty could lead to a strengthening of national and European parliamentary recognition in the EU decision-making process.

The Impact of the Treaty of Lisbon on Regional Policy

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis  
Date: 15-01-2010

Author: Esther KRAMER

Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Regional Development

Keyword: principle of subsidiarity | State aid | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | services of general interest | Treaty of Lisbon | regional development

Summary: This Note describes the impact of the Treaty of Lisbon on Regional Policy. The Treaty introduces new provisions which affect the legislative procedures as well as the scope and the governance system of Regional Policy. They open up new possibilities of increased political influence for the Members of the Committee on Regional Development at several stages of the EU decision-making process.
Cohesion Policy: Challenges and Issues

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 15-09-2009
Author: Ivana KATSAROVA
Policy area: Energy | Economics and Monetary Issues | Regional Development
Keyword: implementation of the budget | economic consequence | energy efficiency | EU regional policy | monetary crisis
Summary: This note discusses the follow-up of the debate on the future of Cohesion policy and puts forward some ideas for a joint discussion with the COTER committee.

In-Depth Analysis: BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV

An Analysis of the Added Value of European Structural Funding

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-06-2009
External author: Julie Pellegrin, Davide Sartori and Alessandro Valenza (Centre for Industrial Studies - Italy); Stratis Koutsoukos and John Shut (Leeds Metropolitan University - European Regional Business and Economic Development Unit - ERBEDU - UK); Case study contributors: Catherine Brooks (UK-IE), J. Andres Faina (ES), Margareta Holmstedt (SE), Stratis Koutsoukos (SE-UK), Martin Pelucha (CZ), Alessandro Valenza (IT-FL) and Marcin Zawicki (PL)
Policy area: European Added Value | Economics and Monetary Issues | Regional Development
Keyword: Structural Funds | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | Cohesion Fund | sustainable development | socioeconomic conditions | regional development
Summary: This study provides a critical and detailed analysis of the EU Cohesion policy instruments over the last two programming periods, 2000-2006 and 2007-2013. Through the production of eight regional case studies complemented by a review of secondary sources, the report offers some insight into the impact that Structural Funds programmes have been having or are likely to have, and provides an in-depth commentary on key issues in relation to added value and economic sustainability of Cohesion policy.

Study: DE, EN, FR
Executive summary: BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV

Moving Towards a Territorialisation of European R&D and Innovation Policies

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-05-2009
External author: Herta Tödtling-Schönhofer (Metis GmbH), Csaba Harsanyi (Metis GmbH), Tony Kinsella (Expert for Metis GmbH), Lukas Wortmann (Metis GmbH) and Franz Tödtling (University of Economics, Vienna, external expert)
Policy area: Research Policy | Regional Development | Industry
Keyword: governance | Structural Funds | EU regional policy | regional authority | Cohesion Fund | Framework Programme for Research and Development | EU research policy | research and development | innovation | diffusion of innovations
Summary: The study examines the territorial dimension of RTDI as supported by Structural Funds and the Framework Programme. A comprehensive analysis of the drivers of innovation reveals bottlenecks and success factors in realizing a territorial approach of RTDI. 23 case studies illustrate approaches fostering innovation and regional innovation supported by European funds. The study suggests to strengthen regional capacities for utilizing the earmarked RTDI Cohesion funds and to improve local anchoring of research projects.

Study: DE, EN, FR
Executive summary: BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV

Monitoring Programmes of Cross-Border Cooperation with Neighbouring Partner Countries

Publication type: Study
Date: 15-05-2009
External author: Carmelo MESSINA, Jacques BARDOUIN, Lidia AURICCHIO and Caterina FEBBRAIO (EUROFOCUS)
Policy area: Regional Development | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: European neighbourhood policy | project evaluation | cross-border cooperation | regional cooperation | EU regional policy | distribution of EU funding | audit | regional development
Summary: This study, which covers the cross-border programming period 2007-2013 of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI CBC), describes the basic concepts, historical background, operational procedures, ongoing processes, problems that have arisen and recommendations for future improvements relating to the cross-border cooperation dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy.

Study: DE, EN, FR
Executive summary: BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV

23-02-2020
Source: © European Union, 2020 - EP
**Practical Guide**

Publication type: Study  
Date: 16-03-2009  
Author: Ivana KATSAROVA  
Policy area: Regional Development  
Keyword: Structural Funds | EP Committee | energy efficiency | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | peripheral region | Cohesion Fund | innovation | regional development  
Summary: This practical guide provides an overview of the legal background to the respective policy, of its achievements during the 6th term and of the challenges that still remain to be tackled. Additionally, it contains concise information about the activities of Policy Department B and of the services it can provide.

**The Future of Cohesion Policy after 2013**

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis  
Date: 16-02-2009  
Author: Ivana KATSAROVA  
Policy area: Regional Development  
Keyword: single market | governance | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | economic convergence | administrative formalities | sustainable development | financial regulation | multiannual financial framework | regional development  
Summary: This note discusses the follow-up of the debate on the future of Cohesion policy and puts forward some ideas for a joint discussion with national parliamentary committees dealing with regional development.

**Issues where Parliament Made a Difference in Structural and Cohesion Policies**

Publication type: Study  
Date: 15-01-2009  
Author: Albert MASSOT MARTI | Nils DANKLEFSEN | Ivana KATSAROVA | Jesus IBORRA MARTIN | Constanze ITZEL  
Policy area: Culture | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Transport | Agriculture and Rural Development | Fisheries | Regional Development | Education  
Keyword: education policy | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | powers of the EP | common transport policy | youth policy | common fisheries policy | common agricultural policy  
Summary: This note provides information on issues where the European Parliament has played an important role in the current legislature, starting in 2004. It is structured following a committee-by-committee approach and covers the fields of transport, regional development, agriculture, fisheries, and culture and education.

**Regional Policy in Finland**

Publication type: Study  
Date: 16-06-2008  
Author: Jacqueline BROWN  
Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues | Regional Development  
Keyword: Structural Funds | EU regional policy | Finland | regional authority | central government | rural development | economic analysis | regional development | economic situation  
Summary: This note provides an overview of Finland, including political arrangements, economic, territorial and regional issues. Finland is currently facing challenges presented by depopulation of rural areas and by an ageing and scattered population, which has a heavy dependence on public services. The country is addressing the need to lengthen the average working life of its workforce, to promote greater productivity in what is, nonetheless, a very successful economy. The note describes Finland's approach to regional policy, including its use of European Structural Funds, The note has been prepared in the context of the Regional Policy Committee Delegation to Finland, 20-23 July 2008, and gives particular focus to Pohjois-Pohjanmaa (Northern Ostrobothnia) and Lapland.

Study: EN
Good practice in the field of regional policy and obstacles to the use of the Structural Funds

Publication type: Study
Date: 14-04-2008
External author: M. Carmelo Messina, Eurofocus
M. Jacques Bardouin, Eurofocus
Mme Lidia Auricchio, Eurofocus
Mme Marie-Luce Blanc, Eurofocus
Policy area: Regional Development
Keyword: co-financing | coordination of financing | Structural Funds | EU regional policy | principle of additionality
Summary: This study sets out concepts and findings, and the desirable content of an EU methodology along with recommendations for contributing to efforts to support the capitalisation and promotion of good practice in the field of territorial development, co-financed in the framework of Community regional policy, for the 2000-2006 and 2007-2013 Structural Funds programming periods.

Study: DE, EN, FR

Governance and Partnership in Regional Policy

Publication type: Study
Date: 04-01-2008
External author: Herta Tödtling Schönhofer (ÖIR-Managementdienste GmbH)
Hannes Wimmer (ÖIR-Managementdienste GmbH)
Xavier Camus (Schuman Associates)
Tony Kinsella (Expert of ÖIR-Managementdienste GmbH)
Bert Preiss (Assistant researcher of ÖIR-Managementdienste GmbH)
Policy area: Global Governance | Regional Development
Keyword: governance | Structural Funds | non-governmental organisation | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | regional and local authorities | audit | civil society | regional development
Summary: The ad hoc note focuses on governance and partnership in the processes that have been set up in Member States on programming the National Strategic Reference Frameworks. It analyses new elements of horizontal and vertical integration and looks at whether these have been followed up in the Operational Programmes. The paper identifies factors leading to the success or failure of the integrated approach in Cohesion policy, highlights existing problems and shortcomings and suggests possible solutions.

Study: DE, EN, FR
Annex I EN

Follow-up of the Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter: towards a European Action Programme for spatial development and territorial cohesion

Publication type: Study
Date: 18-12-2007
External author: Isabel Naylon (ÖIR-Managementdienste GmbH)
Peter Schneidewind (ÖIR-Managementdienste GmbH)
Gabriele Tatzberger (Österreichisches Institut für Raumplanung/Austrian Institute for Regional Studies and Spatial Planning)
Policy area: Environment | Regional Development
Keyword: EU action | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | sustainable development | regional and local authorities | town planning | regional integration | regional development
Summary: The ad-hoc note carries out a detailed analysis of the implications of the Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter for EU policy making. It provides an overview of the issues and territorial challenges facing the EU and of the territorial dimension of current EU policies. It looks in some depth at selected fields of action for the advancement of territorial cohesion and provides a number of recommendations for action.

Study: DE, EN, FR

The Structural Funds' Implementation in Poland – challenges for 2007-2013

Publication type: Study
Date: 01-07-2007
External author: blomeyer & sanz
cerezos 545b - buzcon 250
el clavin, es-19162 guadalajara
+34 650 480 051
Policy area: Budget | Budgetary Control | Regional Development
Keyword: Structural Funds | Poland | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | financial control | audit | regional development
Summary: In the Structural Funds programming period 2007-2013, Poland will receive €67 billion and the present study therefore aims to address two questions: What are the main reasons limiting the effective implementation of the Structural Funds in 2004-2006? And what can be done to overcome these difficulties in order to ensure a successful 2007-2013 programming period?

Study: EN, PL
The Possibilities for Success of the Sustainable Communities Approach and its Implementation volume I-
study

The Synergy between EU Cohesion Policy and European Investment Bank Activities

Energy and Structural and Cohesion Policies
The Impact of Trans-European Networks on Cohesion and Employment

Publication type
Study

Date
15-06-2006

External author
TRT Trasporti e Territorio Srl, Milan (Italy)

Policy area
Transport | Employment | Economics and Monetary Issues | Regional Development

Keyword
transport infrastructure | labour market | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | economic development | unemployment | investment | trans-European network | economic analysis

Summary
This study highlights major aspects of trans-European networks (TENs), such as the interpretation of the relationships between the different conditions across regions, the type of investments, and the type and direction of expected impacts. It analyses the most relevant elements that should be considered to predict the impact of TEN investments on the regional economies. The results could thus be considered as a reference point for further in-depth analysis on a local scale. The final chapter contains clear recommendations destined for decision-makers regarding all major aspects of TEN-related projects.

Study
EN

The Constitutional Treaty and Structural and Cohesion Policies

Publication type
In-Depth Analysis

Date
15-05-2006

Author
Ivanka KATSAROVA

Policy area
EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Regional Development

Keyword
economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | European Constitution | tourism policy | cultural policy | democratic deficit | common transport policy | common fisheries policy | common agricultural policy

Summary
The Constitutional Treaty has significantly altered the provisions relating to the structural and cohesion policies. Five areas are analysed in greater detail in this note: agriculture, culture, regional development, fisheries and transport and tourism. Following the failures of the referendums on the Constitutional Treaty in France and the Netherlands, Europe is once more facing a period of anxiety, torment and questions. In this context, various initiatives have been launched in the institutions to revitalise the project on ‘The future of Europe’. ‘Plan D’, proposed by the European Commission, thus seeks to inject more democracy into the European Union, to encourage a broad public debate and to achieve a new consensus on the future direction of the EU. The European Parliament, for its part, has adopted the report on ‘The period of reflection: the structure, subjects and context for an assessment of the debate on the European Union’. The Members of the European Parliament wanted to ensure that the new debate produced tangible results and called for the period of reflection to be extended. One of the concrete proposals in this report, concerning the convening of a Parliamentary Forum in spring 2006, came to fruition on 8 May. The objective of the parliamentarians, both national and European, was to make comprehensive recommendations to the European Council. On 10 May 2006 the Commission adopted two communications: one is entitled ‘A citizens’ agenda – Delivering results for Europe’, in which it reiterates, in particular, its aim to achieve a ‘Europe of results’ that truly meets the citizens’ needs and wishes; the other is entitled ‘The period of reflection and Plan D’, in which it draws the initial conclusions from the experience gained since the launch of the period of reflection in June 2005 and the presentation of ‘Plan D’ in October 2005. In its latest motion for a resolution on the next steps for the period of reflection, the C

In-Depth Analysis
ES, DE, EL, EN, FR, IT, HU, NL, PL, PT, SK, SL, SV

Adaptation of Cohesion Policy to the Enlarged Europe and the Lisbon and Gothenburg Objectives

Publication type
Study

Date
01-03-2005

External author
Groupement d’Etudes et de Recherches Notre Europe, coordonnée par Mme Marjorie Jouen

Policy area
Enlargement of the Union | Economic and Social Cohesion | Regional Development

Keyword
enlargement of the Union | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | competitiveness | regional disparity | distribution of EU funding

Summary
Faced with the challenge of enlargement and increasing regional disparities, the European Commission proposed a restructuring of cohesion policy with the aim of adapting it to current needs. The purpose of the study is, on the one hand, to identify the problems faced by cohesion policy, in the light of the financial perspectives, and on the other to assess the coherence of the proposed reforms with regard to current and future challenges and with the Lisbon and Gothenburg objectives. The last part of the study formulates recommendations for decision-makers.

Study
EN, FR

Executive summary
XL

Interreg III 2000-2006

Publication type
In-Depth Analysis

Date
01-11-2000

External author
Jean-Philippe Gammel and Nicola Catellani, Robert Schuman Scholars

Policy area
Regional Development

Keyword
Structural Funds | EU regional policy | EU initiative | EU programme | regional integration | regional development

Summary
To provide Members with up-to-date information on the new version of Interreg, DG IV has prepared this briefing on the new management criteria and the guiding principles of the Interreg III Community Initiative Programme.

In-Depth Analysis
ES, DE, EN, FR, IT
Regional Development for Less-Densely Populated Regions in the EU

Publication type: Study  
Date: 01-12-1999  
External author: Fiona Wishlade, Douglas Yuill, John Bachtler and Fotoula Adrimi, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow  
Policy area: Social Policy | Regional Development  
Keyword: economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | population density | underpopulation | regional development  
Summary: Low population regions are the object of national and EC attention, as low population density is not so much an issue in its own right, but can become a regional problem and exacerbate existing regional difficulties.  
Study: EN

The Compatibility of Regional and Competition Policies

Publication type: Study  
Date: 01-03-1999  
External author: CEPS, Brussels  
Policy area: Economics and Monetary Issues | Regional Development  
Keyword: control of State aid | Structural Funds | State aid | regional aid | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | macroeconomics | restriction on competition | regional disparity | microeconomics  
Summary: This study examines the role of indicators for ERDF areas. Moreover, for the better targeting of future Structural Fund allocations areas of ERDF interventions as well as levels of aid eligibility are defined followed by the subsequent monitoring of such interventions.  
Study: EN

Cohesion and Enlargement: The CEEC and Regional Policy

Publication type: Study  
Date: 01-09-1998  
External author: Ralph Gastrein, Robert Schuman Scholar  
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Regional Development  
Keyword: Structural Funds | economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | Central and Eastern European Countries | pre-accession strategy  
Summary: The purpose of this study is to analyse broadly the outline of the relationship between cohesion and enlargement with particular emphasis on the domain of regional policy.  
Study: EN, FR

Sustainable Development : A Key Principle for European Regional Development

Publication type: Study  
Date: 01-04-1998  
External author: Roger Tym and Partners (London, the UK)  
Policy area: Environment | Regional Development  
Keyword: economic and social cohesion | EU regional policy | sustainable development | European Regional Development Fund | economic indicator  
Summary: Sustainable development is the determinant for all Community policies of the year 2000. In regional policy, it is the condition for development and territorial management. Local, regional, national and Community actors will have to take account of this principle. A choice of indicators is given in this study for them to use in their decision-making process.  
Study: EN, FR

The European Parliament and the Participation of Sub-National Levels of Government in the European Union

Publication type: Study  
Date: 01-06-1997  
External author: Martyn Farrow, Robert Schuman Scholar  
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Regional Development  
Keyword: region-EU relationship | EU regional policy | European Region | regional and local authorities | European integration | European Committee of the Regions | European Parliament  
Summary: A reference document which outlines the position of the Parliament in relation to the participation of local and regional authorities in the EU. The Draft Treaty on EU is the starting point of this research, then the twelve years up to and including the Conference ‘Towards a Europe based on Democracy and Solidarity’, of October 1996, are taken into account.  
Study: EN
Information and Technology Research in the Regions of Europe

Publication type: Study  Date: 01-01-1997
External author: Nina Bredgaard Sorensen, Robert Schuman Scholar
Policy area: Research Policy | Regional Development | Industry
Keyword: Structural Funds | information technology | EU regional policy | Framework Programme for Research and Development | research and development | innovation | knowledge economy | globalisation | economic analysis | regional development
Summary: A study on the present situation in European research and the existence of cooperation among regions.
Study ES, DA, EN

The Contribution of the ERDF and the Joint Programme for Regional Economic Structures in Saxony

Publication type: Study  Date: 01-03-1996
External author: Roman Noetzel, Robert Schuman Scholar
Policy area: Regional Development
Keyword: Germany | EU regional policy | economic development | European Regional Development Fund | Saxony | regional development
Summary: The synthesis of a complete work on German regional policy and its relations with EU regional policy.
Study DE, EN, FR

Budgetary Control and Remote Sensing

Publication type: Study  Date: 01-04-1995
Policy area: Budget | Environment | Research Policy | Budgetary Control | Agriculture and Rural Development
Keyword: environmental monitoring | EU regional policy | fraud | financial control | general budget (EU) | common agricultural policy | agricultural statistics | remote sensing
Summary: This study investigates the use of earth observation satellites to check the declarations of farmers and thus to control CAP expenditure. The technology of remote sensing is described and the uses to which it is put in other EU policies is also mentioned.
Study EN, FR, IT

The Organization of Local and Regional Government in the European Community

Publication type: Study  Date: 01-01-1994
External author: Juan Valdes Menendez, Robert Schuman Scholar
Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Regional Development
Keyword: local government | EU regional policy | regionalisation | regional government | regional planning
Study DE, EN, FR

Competition Policy and the Regions

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis  Date: 01-10-1991
Policy area: Regional Development | Industry
Keyword: control of State aid | regional aid | EU control | investment aid | EU regional policy | comparative study | competition policy | regional development | support policy
In-Depth Analysis ES, DE, EN, FR, IT

The Principle of ‘Additionality’ in Regard to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and its Application in Some Member States

Publication type: Study  Date: 01-05-1987
Author: Anthony COMFORT
Policy area: Regional Development
Keyword: EU regional policy | principle of additionality | European Regional Development Fund | regional development
Study EN