

**May 2021**

The first edition of 'Cohesion Talks' will be hosted on 5 May 2021 by the European Court of Auditors, Chamber II - Investment for cohesion, growth and inclusion. Fearghas O'Beara, Head of the Structural Policies Unit (SPOL) in the European Parliamentary Research Service, and Agnieszka Widuto, policy analyst working on EU regional policy in the same unit, will give a presentation on 'Cohesion policy and the European Green Deal: Clash or compatibility?'. The event will take place online and provide a forum to exchange views on the links between cohesion policy and the European Green Deal, with a particular focus on the Just Transition Fund.

**Cohesion policy and climate change**

'At a glance' note by Agnieszka Widuto, EPRS, March 2021

The European Green Deal and the European Union's commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions have put climate issues firmly on top of the EU agenda. However, the transition towards climate neutrality will also entail economic and social change. Cohesion policy, which accounts for about one third of the EU budget, can play an important role in tackling this challenge. The European Parliament voted on an own-initiative report on 'cohesion policy and regional environment strategies in the fight against climate change' during its March II plenary session.

**Just Transition Fund**

'EU Legislation in Progress' briefing by Agnieszka Widuto and Pernilla Jourde, EPRS, April 2021

The EU aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 % by 2030, and achieve climate neutrality by 2050. This will require a socio-economic transformation in regions relying on fossil fuels and high-emission industries. As part of the European Green Deal, on 14 January 2020, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation to create the Just Transition Fund, aimed at supporting EU regions most affected by the transition to a low carbon economy. Funding will be available to all Member States, while focusing on regions with the biggest transition challenges.

**Climate change and climate action**

'Ideas Paper' by Gregor Erbach, EPRS, July 2020

The coronavirus crisis has presented challenges as well as opportunities for policies to address the issue of climate change. Measures taken in reaction to the pandemic led to a dramatic fall in economic and social activity, and to a corresponding temporary drop in greenhouse gas emissions.

**Cohesion, resilience and values: Heading 2 of the 2021-2027 MFF**

Briefing by Magdalena Sapata, EPRS, April 2021

Heading 2 – Cohesion, resilience and values – is the biggest of the seven headings in the multiannual financial framework (MFF) for the 2021-2027 period in terms of budget. Since about 87 % of the heading falls under shared management and will be distributed in national envelopes, for the Member States it is a particularly important part of the MFF. It is also the most diverse heading in terms of the types of programme and fund included. It encompasses expenditure on cohesion, one of the EU's long-standing policies, on an entirely new budgetary instrument supporting economic recovery and resilience, and on other increasingly important goals, including youth, the creative sector, values, equality and the rule of law.

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## Further reading

### Cohesion policy contribution to New European Bauhaus

'At a glance' note by Agnieszka Widuto, EPRS, February 2021

### Exceptional coronavirus support measures of benefit to EU regions

Briefing by Vasileios Margaras, EPRS, October 2021

### Just Transition Fund 2021-2027

Animated infographic by Sorina Ionescu and Frederik Scholaert, EPRS, October 2020

### A Just Transition Fund for climate-neutral EU regions

Infographic by Sorina Ionescu, Giulio Sabbati and Frederik Scholaert, EPRS October 2020

### EU climate action policy: Responding to the global emergency

Study by Gregor Erbach et al., EPRS, March 2021

### Natural resources and environment: Heading 3 of the 2021-2027 MFF

Briefing by Karoline Kowald, EPRS, April 2021

### Sustainable Development Goals in EU regions

Briefing by Agnieszka Widuto, EPRS, December 2020

### Towards a more resilient Europe post-coronavirus: Options to enhance the EU's resilience to structural risks

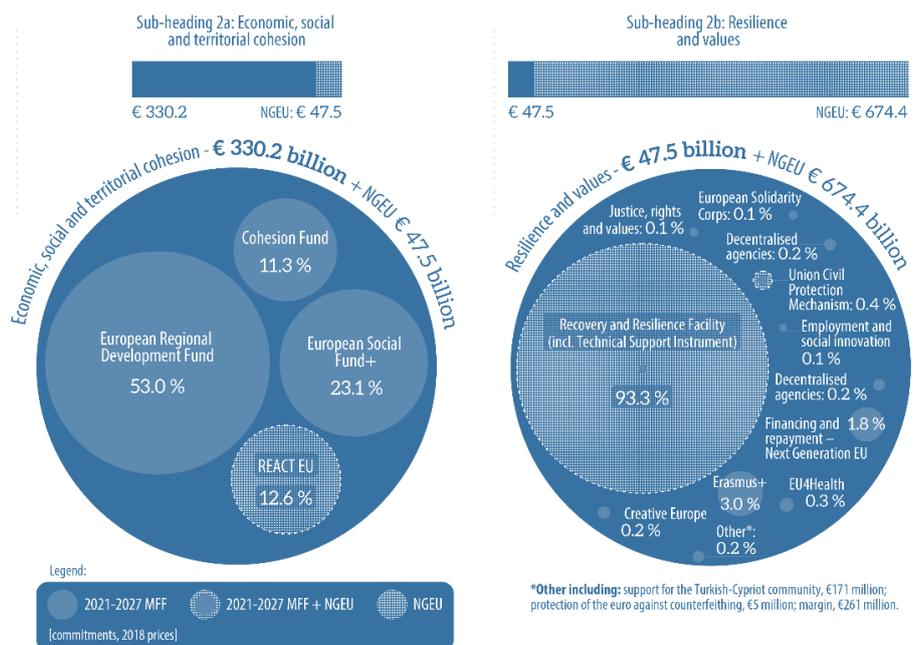
Study by EPRS with the Directorates-General for Internal Policies and External Policies, April 2021

### Research for REGI Committee – Cohesion Policy and Climate Change

Study by the Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, April 2021

## EPRS graphics

**Programmes and funds under subheadings 2a and 2b of the 2021-2027 MFF (share in total allocation for subheading under the MFF and NGEU).**



Source: EPRS, 2021.

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