



Hearing on the legislative package at the European Parliament

Brussels, 20th March 2012

# Cohesion policy 2014-2020: new regulations and *governance* of the European Structural Funds

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## Cohesion policy 2014-2020: new regulations and *governance* of the European Structural Funds

### ***Positive aspects***



The harmonization of common rules for all the Structural Funds (including EAFRD and EMFF)



More flexibility in the management of Programmes (Managing Authorities can act as Certifying Authorities; the possibility to develop multi-funding programmes and the opportunity to create synergies among funds);



The strengthening of the principle of proportionality during the control procedures. This will be done considering the volume of financing and the risk level;



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### ***Positive aspects***



More efficient management of information (presentation of the first Annual Implementation Report in 2016, quarterly data submission to the EC, introduction of core common indicators);



The promotion of E-Cohesion;



The reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries



P.O.R. CAMPANIA  
2007-2013

**FESR**

Fondo Europeo Sviluppo Regionale

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### ***Negative aspects***



Ex-ante  
conditionality  
system and  
macroeconomics



Reference  
framework of the  
results and  
conditions for the  
suspension of the  
Funds;



National  
accreditation



Annual  
declaration of  
management  
assurance



Annual  
accounts  
system



Clearance of  
annual accounts  
done by the EC



Payment system  
established by the EC





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### ***Negative aspects***



Higher administrative burden for Operational Programmes which amount exceeds 250 million Euros



Rules related to the exchange of data are more complex compared to the previous years



Amendments regarding the procedures of financial instruments




Amendments regarding the procedures of Major Projects (the possibility to modify the mandatory list of the Operational Programmes is limited to the two first years, inadmissibility of expenditures before EC decision)



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## Impact of the amendments laid down by the legislative package concerning Managing Authorities

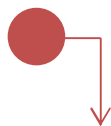


Even if the reforms developed in the package have led to a simplification of procedures and rules, they however represent an additional cost in terms of human and financial resources both for Member States countries and Managing Authorities. These expenses are the result of the reorganization of the system.



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## Impact of the amendments laid down by the legislative package concerning Managing Authorities



The EU tends to modify every aspect of the process instead of improving it each time a new programme initiation is being developed. This is mainly done to highlight the discontinuity effect.



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# Impact of the amendments laid down by the legislative package concerning Managing Authorities

The adoption of this approach prevents the creation of a virtuous circle among the different interlinked stages of the Operational Programme (i.e. implementation, evaluation and reprogramming phases).

Nevertheless, the creation of such virtuous circles would have allowed the EU to achieve major simplification not only through gained experience, but also through the consolidation, certainty, dissemination and awareness of rules.

In addition, the adjustments to the new requirements, such as the ones for the programming period 2007-2013 (i.e. the setting up and approval process of the management and control systems) should be strongly considered, as they will lead to a delay of at least two years in the implementation phase of the programme.

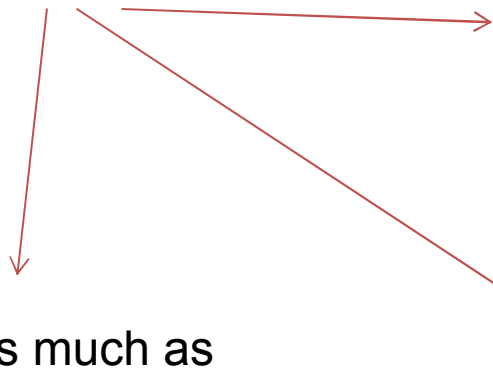
However, it is important to mention that before starting the implementation phase, various actions will be carried out in order to fulfill the ex ante conditionality clauses for the closing period of the current programming.





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## Negotiating proposals



Improve as much as possible the achievements of the 2007-2013 programming period, through further initiatives and taking into account existing results and problems

Limit additional requirements (Procedure for independent examination and resolution of complaints; Annual declaration of management assurance) which are not considered as being necessary and which may affect the authorities of the Program who will have to bear additional costs and liabilities

Changes must represent a clear added value and increase the effectiveness and the efficiency of the way the Funds are handled (managed);  
The emphasis placed by the Commission on the need to reduce burden for beneficiaries should not have as a consequence higher duties for Managing Authorities, but rather promote the improvement of procedures





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### Negotiating proposals



Changes that have a strong impact on the organization and on the division of responsibilities of the administrative apparatus (Accreditation System, Audit Authority which doesn't belong to the same public authority as the Managing Authority) should be adjusted

Systematize and facilitate the exchange of information, while avoiding an increase in the number of reports, documents - which will be transferred - and data duplication. Only the information considered as useful and which actually ensures a gradual transition (and not later than 31.12.2014) towards an electronic data interchange system will be required

Respect timing and deadlines (e.g. Deadlines for the submission of reports and evaluations)



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### Negotiating proposals



Respect the principle of subsidiarity, which allows Member States and authorities to benefit from greater flexibility and discretion, and which limits the use of delegated or implementing acts approved by the EC



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# *Thanks*

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