

THEMATIC DIGEST

Supporting analyses for committees



POLICY DEPARTMENTS

The future of Cohesion Policy

Interparliamentary committee meeting, 22 November 2017

Purpose

The European Parliament's Committee on Regional Development is holding an inter-parliamentary committee meeting to discuss the future of Cohesion Policy post 2020, on 22 November 2017 in Brussels.

Representatives of national parliaments have been invited to participate in discussions on the opportunities, the challenges and the next steps to be taken in relation to this topic. The meeting will take place together with representatives of the European Commission, the Council of the European Union and the Committee of the Regions.

Inside

This publication includes supporting analyses provided by Parliament's Policy Departments for the Committees on Regional Development, Constitutional Affairs, Budgets and Budgetary Control. Scan the QR codes or click on titles for direct access.



Publications

[Fact Sheets on regional and cohesion policy](#) - updated regularly

In order to promote its overall harmonious development, the European Union is strengthening its economic, social and territorial cohesion. In particular, the EU aims at reducing disparities between the levels of development of its various regions. Among the regions concerned, special attention is paid to rural areas, areas affected by industrial transition, and regions that suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps, such as the northernmost regions with very low population density and island, cross-border and mountain regions. This compilation of Fact Sheets contains a concise and accurate overview of EU legislation in the area of regional and cohesion policy, and of the role that the European Parliament plays in its development. It puts together Fact Sheets on: Economic, social and territorial cohesion; the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF); the Cohesion Fund; Support from the European Regional Development Fund for European Territorial Cooperation; the outermost regions (ORs); and the Northern Ireland PEACE programme.



DG IPOL Policy Departments

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[Integrated use of ESI Funds to address social challenges](#) - July 2017

This study aims to analyse how integrated approaches under European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds have been used to address social inclusion challenges in the Member States. Specific attention is given to issues related to the integration of migrants and refugees into European communities. Programme logic of intervention, combinations of thematic objectives, synergies with other policy instruments of the European Commission and the use of integrated tools are analysed for a set of programmes. Conclusions and recommendations are provided for the current and next programming periods.



[Cohesion Policy and Paris Agreement targets](#) - June 2017

This study examines experience in the use of the European Structural and Investment Funds to deliver climate policy objectives, with particular focus on the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund. It looks at the mechanisms introduced in the 2014-2020 programming period to ensure the mainstreaming of climate objectives, including with respect to its urban dimension and territorial cooperation. It identifies the implications of the Paris Agreement on climate change and makes recommendations for further development of climate mainstreaming in cohesion policy in the future.



[Indicators in Cohesion Policy](#) - May 2017

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita is the only criterion of eligibility for the less developed or intermediate regions in the framework of the European Structural and Investment Funds. However, it is a purely economic conception of the development and does not really reveal the well-being of people. This study examines alternative measures, such as final consumption expenses or a more sophisticated synthetic index, and their impact on the eligibility of the regions. The impact of the UK Referendum is examined either by using the present criterion or the alternative ones.



[Building blocks for a future Cohesion Policy: first reflections](#) - April 2017

The reform of the European Union budget and policy priorities in the post-2020 Multi Financial Framework comes at a difficult time for the EU with major internal and external challenges. There are also competing pressures on the EU budget, such as keeping net payers' contributions within acceptable limits. Cohesion Policy comes under pressure to justify its value in relation to EU political objectives. This study discusses the main themes relating to post-2020 Cohesion Policy, the rationale and overall framework of the policy, current and future challenges, and the post-2020 delivery system.



[Gold-plating in the European Structural and Investment Funds](#) - January 2017

Gold-plating is a frequently-used term to describe additional rules and regulatory obligations that go beyond the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) requirements set out at European Union level, and that make the implementation of ESIF more costly and burdensome for programme bodies and beneficiaries. The study analyses gold-plating in all five funds and discusses the presence, reasons and effects of gold-plating in ESIF. It concludes with pointers for action to reduce gold-plating in the current 2014-2020 programming period and also in the post-2020 programming period.





[The role of cities in the institutional framework of the European Union](#) - October 2017

The role of cities in EU policy-making has been more and more recognised since the end of the 1980s – leading to the EU Urban Agenda formulated by the Pact of Amsterdam in June 2016. This study examines the role of cities in the institutional framework of the EU, showing their limits and opportunities to engage effectively in policy-making at the EU level. It ends with reflections about perspectives of a stronger involvement of cities in developing and implementing a European urban policy. Mechanisms are sketched out in line with the Pact of Amsterdam to achieve cohesion.



[The cost of each euro from the EU budget to implement EU policies in different Member States](#) - October 2016

This study provides a sound understanding, notably through estimates, of the costs linked to grant management – both from the grant provider's and the grant seeker's perspective. It covers EU policy fields related to Competitiveness for growth and jobs, economic, social and territorial cohesion, and Common Agricultural Policy – Pillar I, within the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020. The study analyses the differences between the different grants processes, identifies areas for improvement in the grant management processes, and formulates a number of recommendations.



[Financial Instruments under Cohesion Policy 2007-2013](#) - February 2016

This study assesses the implementation of financial instruments in Cohesion Policy during the 2007-2013 programming period. It takes stock of existing knowledge on the operation of financial instruments as reflected in the academic literature and policy documents. A comparative analysis of eight case studies, focusing on the different stages in the lifecycle of financial instruments, provides the basis on which to draw lessons from their implementation in the 2007-13 programming period. It also highlights implications for the 2014-20 programming period.



[Aspect of durability in the assessment of effectiveness of support for businesses](#) - September 2013

This study reviews experience with the sustainability of business support interventions under the EU's Structural Funds (focus on experience under the programming period 2007-2013). Moreover, it 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 studies.



[The European Investment Bank: Fact Sheet](#) - June 2017

The European Investment Bank (EIB) furthers the objectives of the EU by providing long-term project funding, guarantees and advice. It supports projects both within and outside the EU. Its shareholders are the Member States of the EU. The EIB is the majority shareholder in the European Investment Fund and, together with the latter, makes up the EIB Group. Within the Investment Plan for Europe proposed by the Commission, the EIB Group is part of a broader strategy aimed at overcoming the large investment gap by relieving investors of some of the risk inherent in projects.



Policy Departments

There are five policy departments within the European Parliament's DGs for Internal Policies and for External Policies. They are responsible for providing both in-house and external high-level independent expertise, analysis and policy advice at the request of committees and other parliamentary bodies (delegations, President, Bureau, Secretary-General). Their expertise covers all areas of activity of the European Parliament. They are closely involved in the work of committees, which they support in shaping legislation on and exercising democratic scrutiny over EU policies.

Outputs

Most frequently prepared at the request of a European Parliament committee or delegation, the written output of the policy departments comprises a wide range of products, including studies, in-depth country- or issue-specific analyses, briefings examining issues of strategic importance, as well as notes containing short EU-oriented analyses of recent events or developments. They serve a variety of purposes: they can feed directly into the legislative work of a specific committee or serve as a briefing for delegations of members. The policy departments also draft the Fact Sheets on the EU, which provide an overview of European integration and of the European Parliament's contribution to that process. Furthermore, they provide background notes and speaking points.

Events

The policy departments organise events that enhance Parliament's analytical capacity and develop common approaches to current political issues. Public workshops, bringing together groups of experts, are organised to provide independent expertise via written and oral presentations. Expert panels are set up to provide members with regular written contributions or to feed into the parliamentary debate during meetings. Publications are generally presented during committee meetings.

Scrutiny

Policy departments provide research support to enhance the European Parliament's capacity to monitor EU negotiations and the implementation of international agreements. They have also developed an in-house methodology to scrutinise EU-funded projects.

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Fact Sheets on the EU

The Fact Sheets give an overview of European integration and of Parliament's contribution to the process. They cover six main themes:

- the EU's functioning;
- a citizens' Europe;
- the internal market;
- economic and monetary union;
- sectoral policies; and
- external relations.

The Fact Sheets are available in 23 languages and are updated regularly.

www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets



Supporting Analyses

Access policy departments Studies, Briefings, In-depth Analyses and At-a-Glance notes.

www.europarl.europa.eu/supporting-analyses



Thematic Digests

Leaflets with policy department publications relevant to seminars, inter-parliamentary meetings.



Monthly Highlights

The Monthly Highlights provide an overview, at a glance, of the on-going work of the policy departments, including a selection of the latest and forthcoming publications, and future events.



To receive them, send an email to:
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