



Cohesion policy 2021-2027 programming

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2021-2027 cohesion policy

- Commission proposal issued on 29 May 2018
- Legislative negotiations still ongoing, significant progress in the last days
- Last trilogues expected by 9 December, i.e. the legislation will be adopted only in the first half of 2021
- CPR articles agreed, COREPER in mid-December

2021-2027 cohesion policy features

- Five policy objectives and JTF specific objective
 - ✓ A more competitive and smarter Europe
 - ✓ A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe
 - ✓ More connected Europe
 - ✓ More social and inclusive Europe
 - ✓ Europe closer to citizens
 - ✓ JTF specific objective of enabling regions and people to address the social, economic and environmental impacts of the transition towards a climate-neutral economy

2021-2027 cohesion policy features

1. A more tailored approach to regional development
2. Simplification: shorter, fewer, clearer rules
3. A more flexible framework
4. A strengthened link with the European Semester and the Union's economic governance
5. Reinforced rules for better performing EU investments
6. An increased use of financial instruments

2021-2027 cohesion policy programming

- February 2019 – European Semester Country reports Annex D – Commission’s views on the MS investment needs (and in 2020, Annex D bis on JTF)
- Spring 2019 negotiations launched – ambitious roadmaps from MS (mature drafts by Q2 2020, ready for adoption drafts in Q4 2020)
- Despite COVID-19, some MS have progressed significantly, while some need more time

2021-2027 cohesion policy programming

- Mature drafts expected mainly in Q1 2021, on which Commission will consult internally and submit feedback to MS → improved documents for smoother adoption process in the formal stage
- Formal submissions from Q2 (4/5 months to approve PA/programmes, 3 months to send observations)
- Launch of the new cohesion policy on the ground is of utmost importance for the long-term recovery
- Commission stands ready to help and discuss with the MS open issues, MS invited to use the informal dialogue at the fullest

Challenges and issues diverting the focus from programming

- COVID-19 pandemic
- Additional funding sources requiring attention:
 - ✓ CRII(+), REACT-EU, JTF
 - ➔ Webinar at the beginning of 2021
 - ✓ RRF
- Internal MS (elections, new administrative set up, change of national priorities etc.)
- Climate-neutral Europe by 2050

Partnership principle

- Embedded in the cohesion policy legislation for decades
- Became more prominent since 2014 with the Code of Conduct on Partnership (Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 240/2014)
- Fully applicable for the first time already during programming
- Commission assessing the aspects from the CPR and the Code:
 - ✓ Representativeness and identification of partners
 - ✓ Information and Consultation
 - ✓ Capacity building

Representativeness and identification of partners (Article 2 – 4 of the Code)

- Partnership to include at least the following partners (they should be representative and selected in a transparent way, taking into account the different institutional and legal MS framework)
 - ✓ regional, local, urban and other public authorities;
 - ✓ economic and social partners;
 - ✓ relevant bodies representing civil society, such as environmental partners, NGOs, and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, fundamental rights, rights of persons with disabilities, gender equality and non-discrimination.
 - ✓ research institutions and universities, where appropriate.
- Experience:
 - ✓ Most MS involve a diverse range of partners – economic and social partners, regional, local and urban in the programming;
 - ✓ Some improvements involving the relevant bodies representing group 3 above

Information and Consultation (Article 5, 7 and 9 of the Code)

- Procedural arrangements established to ensure timely, meaningful and transparent consultation that duly takes into consideration the expertise/experience of partners (e.g. sufficient time, mode/channels of sharing, dedicated webpage, feedback mechanism on partners' contributions in place, etc.);
- Sufficient actions taken to ensure active participation of all partners, including civil society;
- Experience:
 - ✓ MS publish programming documents online and usually provide sufficient time for reaction
 - ✓ No significant negative effect of the COVID-19 situation on the communication with partners
 - ✓ Feedback mechanism could be improved in some cases

Capacity building (Article 17 of the Code and Article 6(2) CPR)

- Make use of technical assistance in order to support the strengthening of the institutional capacity of partners, where need is identified, including administrative capacity building of social partners, NGOs and civil society organisations
 - ✓ Most MS where need was identified signalled that they will be using technical assistance for these purposes.

Thank you!