



Project EURE

LUBELSKIE THEMATIC SEMINAR

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EU URBAN POLICY

IN THE CONTEXT OF 2021-27 COHESION POLICY



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

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1. FINANCING THE URBAN POLICY : MFF + NEXT GENERATION EU

| | 2021-27 | | | 2014-20 |
|--------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| | MFF | NEXT GENERATION EU | TOTAL | MFF |
| Current prices 1000 M Euros | 1.279,4 | 750 (390 grants and 360 loans) | 2.029,4 | 1.087,2 |
| Cohesion Policy | | | 372,58 | 460,86 |



| FUNDS | 2021-27 | 2014-20 |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| COHESION (TOTAL) | 372,58 | 346,18 |
| ERDF – REGIONAL AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT | 226,05 | 200,18 |
| ESF – SOCIAL FUND | 98,50 | 84,55 |
| CF – COHESION FUND | 48,03 | 61,45 |

2. COMMON REGULATION TO DIFFERENT FUNDS

2. COMMON REGULATION



Article 4 ***Policy objectives***

1. The ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund and the EMFF shall support the following policy objectives:
 - (a) a smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation;
 - (b) a greener, low-carbon Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management;
 - (c) a more connected Europe by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity;
 - (d) a more social Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights;
 - (e) a Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives.

2. COMMON REGULATION



Article 22 ***Integrated territorial development***

The Member State shall support integrated territorial development through territorial and local development strategies in any of the following forms:

- (a) integrated territorial investments;
- (b) community-led local development;
- (c) another territorial tool supporting initiatives designed by the Member State for investments programmed for the ERDF under the policy objective referred in Article 4(1)(e).

Article 24 ***Integrated territorial investment***

1. Where a strategy implemented in accordance with Article 23 involves investments that receive support from one or more Funds, from more than one programme or from more than one priority of the same programme, actions may be carried out as an integrated territorial investment ('ITI').

3. ERDF (EU Regional and Urban policy) REGULATION

Article 2

Specific objectives for the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund

1. In accordance with the policy objectives set out in Article [4(1)] of Regulation (EU) 2018/xxxx[new CPR], the ERDF shall support the following specific objectives:

(e) 'a Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives' ('PO 5') by:

- (i) fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental development, cultural heritage and security in urban areas;
- (ii) fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental local development, cultural heritage and security, including for rural and coastal areas also through community-led local development.

ERDF resources at the national level allocated (at least) to sustainable urban development

Millions of Euros (current prices)

| % ERDF resources | 2021-27 | 2014-20 |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 5 % | - | 10.009 |
| 8 % | 18.120 | - |

NB : For 2021-27 EU Commission proposed 6% of ERDF for Urban Sustainable development. The Inter-Institucional agreement corrected it and established **8%**

4. NEW URBAN INITIATIVE

- The 3 strands included in the COM proposal were reduced to 2 (Art 10 ERDF Regulation):
 - (a) support of innovative actions; and
 - (b) support of capacity and knowledge building, territorial impact assessments, policy development and communication.
- There will be an Entrusted Entity to manage the program for EUI (European Urban Initiative).
- The EUI shall cover all urban areas including small and medium-sized cities. Special attention will be given to them in the context of promoting urban-rural linkages and supporting the use of Functional Urban Areas (FUAs).
- It is envisaged that cities above 50.000 can be the main city applying and implementing the project, while cities below this threshold can apply as part of the groupings of urban authorities (where the total population is at least 50 000 inhabitants).
- Call for Proposals will start as soon as possible after the formal launch of the EUI in 2022. They will be published by the EUI Entrusted Entity and their periodicity is to be decided but most likely annual calls will prevail.

(1) Stratboard is a web-based tool developed by the JRC with a repository of all the SUD strategies financed by the ERDF: <https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/strat-board/#/where>

5. EURE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE EU URBAN POLICY

URBAN RESOURCES EFFICIENCY 1



- All Cities and Groups of Cities should be encouraged to have long term Strategies and Action Plans to implement measures to: **Assure water supply in future; Reduce flood risk and underground water pollution**
- **Circular Economy** should be mainstreamed into European Urban Policy for small, medium and peripheral cities
- Cities and Groups of Cities should reinforce their **energy efficiency** measures, integrate as much as possible renewables
- Promote **sustainable intermodal urban mobility** through interventions aimed at improving the sustainable urban mobility actions

URBAN RESOURCES EFFICIENCY 2



- Cities and groups of Cities should implement the European Commission Clean Air Policy Package (**Air pollution**)
- **Noise Pollution.** Cities and groups of Cities should implement Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EC
- Promote **adaptation to climate change**, risk prevention and resilience to disasters through prevention interventions
- Cities and groups of Cities should be strongly advised, encouraged and supported to prepare and Implement **Social Inclusion Action Plans** for their territories
- Strengthen **biodiversity, green and blue infrastructure in the urban environment** and reduce pollution through interventions aimed at creating green infrastructures in the urban area

GOVERNANCE 1



- Cities, as they have done during the health pandemic, should play a nuclear role in post-COVID socio-economic reconstruction.
- Promote an effective participation of small, medium and peripheral cities in the EU urban policy to strengthen Policentrism, as well as an adequate definition of these cities, depending on the territory in which they are located;
- Empower public and social participation of the local administration in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of urban strategies and, in general, urban policy;
- Integrated sustainable urban development should be progressively oriented to functional urban areas and polycentric urban systems;
- Give greater relevance to strategic planning in the preparation of the programme instruments for the implementation of urban policy and public investment in general;
- Promote the territorial and thematic grouping of cities and entities for the joint development of sustainable urban development policies through integrated territorial strategies;

GOVERNANCE 2



- Empower the **capacity building for decentralized authorities and simplification of ERDF management** and ensure that ERDF resources allocated to urban policies are increased
- Cities and groups of Cities should in future reinforce Governance by development concepts such as **Smart Cities** and governance participation involving the civil society in the decision making process
- **Urban functional areas for sustainable urban development** can and should overflow administrative demarcations, configuring around different urban functions, polycentric territorial systems and greater territorial interrelationships
- To include in the future, for the purpose of organizing urban planning and management in national polycentric regions, the **FUAs with about 20,000 or more inhabitants** (central and peripheral municipalities integrated in an area of influence of the main city of the central Municipality). These FUAs should therefore be able to access European funds for European urban policy in the form of ITI's

GOVERNANCE 3



- Eligibility criteria for national and ERDF funding 2021-27. The FUA leader municipality must have at least around 10.000 inhabitants, and in total the FUA territory must have at least 20.000 inhabitants.

- Recommendations on Statistics production:

Urban evolution has generated a transformation in the scale that has led to different figures (Counties, urban agglomerations...). Nevertheless, there is not accurate nor uniform information about this administrative level to be used as input to design the Urban Policy. In this sense, it seems advisable to reflect about the adequacy of create a new level NUTS IV, especially to have appropriate statistics for the Urban Policy.

- European Commission shall recommends that ITI's should be used in the next EU 2021-27 programming period as a main instrument for SUD. And that ITI's should be encouraged not only for urban areas, but as well for Functional Urban Areas. In this case ITI's should be encouraged as well for Cross Border Functional Urban Areas.

FINANCING



- New urban policy should encourage and support financially the reduction of urban sprawl
- To increase National and EU financial support to Cities, should be an occasion to boost Cities and Municipalities financial support in particular through ITI – Integrated Territorial Investments. Therefore, the allocation of EU structural Funds should be increased in the Operational programs to at least 10%, in current prices using the facility of the actual legal allocation is of at least (8%) of ERDF for 2021-27.
- Promote a greater commitment to Member states in political and financial decentralization to the local administration;