

Item 6 (c) of the provisional agenda  
**Implementing the Paris Declaration:  
THE PEP Partnerships**

## **Updated pocket guidebook to working in partnership with the European Union**

**Prepared by Claudia Salvi<sup>1</sup>**

### **I. Background and mandate**

1. At its twelfth Session the Steering Committee tasked the Secretariat with updating the pocket guidebook to working in partnership with the European Union from 2012<sup>2</sup>.
2. The below text provides an updated draft version of the original pocket guidebook reflecting the most relevant and current mechanisms for working in partnership with the EU for EU as well as non-EU Member States.
3. This version introduces the EU macro-regional strategies which are underpinning the mechanisms and encourage collaboration between Member States on key issues like transport, health and environment. It further includes the COSME programme which contains measures for on sustainable tourism and the Ambient Assisted Living programme which targets issues related to the ageing population.
4. Furthermore, the 2030 framework for climate and energy and the roadmap for moving to a low-carbon economy by 2050 are now included.
5. The Committee is invited to comment on the draft and endorse it for finalization.

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<sup>1</sup> Consultant to the WHO Regional Office for Europe for the drafting of the pocket guidebook to working in partnership with the European Union

<sup>2</sup> Available online at: [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/thepep/documents/2012/Informal\\_document\\_no.6 - Updated pocket guidebook on working in partnership with the EU .pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/thepep/documents/2012/Informal_document_no.6_-_Updated_pocket_guidebook_on_working_in_partnership_with_the_EU_.pdf)

## Transport, Environment and Health

# **A pocket guidebook to working in partnership with the European Union**



**Draft version for consultation with THE PEP Steering Committee**

**October 2015**

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## **Introduction**

### ***About the Transport, Health and Environment Pan European Programme (THE PEP)***

Recognizing the crucial connection between transport, health and the environment, high level representatives of transport, health and environment sectors of the pan-European region established the Transport, Health and Environment Pan European Programme (THE PEP) in 2002. THE PEP is a unique intersectoral and intergovernmental policy framework to promote mobility and transport strategies that integrate environmental and health concerns.

It involves the transport, health and environment sectors of 56 member States in the UNECE-WHO European region, including also intergovernmental organizations and civil society in support of integrated approaches and solutions to achieve sustainable and healthy transport and mobility all over Europe. UNECE (Environment and Sustainable Transport Divisions) and WHO Regional Office for Europe provide the secretariat for the process.

THE PEP pools capacities and skills from Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and North America to support translating national policy into local action. It offers a platform for countries to share information and know-how and benefit from experience. By integrating transport, health and environment policies, THE PEP contributes to a greener economy, safeguarding health and the environment.

Following the Fourth High-level Meeting on Transport Environment and Health (2014), which adopted the Paris Declaration – City in motion: people first!, THE PEP work plan is geared towards the achievement of the following five priority goals:

1. to contribute to sustainable economic development and stimulate job creation through investment in environment and health-friendly transport;
2. to manage sustainable mobility and promote a more efficient transport system;
3. to reduce emissions of transport-related greenhouse gases, air pollutants and noise;
4. to promote policies and actions conducive to healthy and safe modes of transport; and
5. to integrate transport, health and environmental objectives into urban and spatial planning policies.

Progress towards the achievement of these goals is facilitated by four supportive implementation mechanisms, which include:

- the development of partnerships between interested stakeholder to address specific priority areas;
- thematic workshops to strengthen capacities and share experiences (THE PEP relay race);
- support to national implementation, notably through the development of National Transport, Health and Environment Action Plans (NTHEAPs); and
- a platform linking science, policy and practice to strengthen capacities for integrated transport, health, environment and spatial planning, facilitating the uptake of new knowledge (THE PEP Academy)

The implementation of THE PEP work plan implies the development of collaborations among different countries from the pan-European Region, as well between different level of administration, from international to the national and local.

In this context, the European Union stands out as one of the key partners for European governments. Both through its set of policies in the fields of transport, health, environment, and through the numerous

opportunities for collaboration and support to national action and international cooperation provided by its set of financing instruments.

An example of an ongoing collaboration with the European Commission is a project co-financed by the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation on “Physical activity through sustainable transport approaches (PASTA)”. PASTA is contributing to THE PEP implementation, by providing the opportunity of further improving tools for including the health effects of cycling and walking into transport policies and by providing guidance on promoting active mobility (i.e. walking and cycling).

## ***About this document***

This guidebook was developed by a consultant to THE PEP Secretariat to provide Member States and other stakeholders participating in THE PEP implementation with basic information about how to integrate national economic resources with the funding opportunities offered by the European Union in the three main operational sectors of THE PEP: transport, health and environment.

The guidebook focuses on the EU financial instruments of the greatest potential relevance to THE PEP, as well as on opportunities for non—EU Member States to participate in the projects. It is not meant to provide a comprehensive guidance on each of the instruments reviewed, but rather at offering a synthetic overview of existing opportunities. After highlighting the main categories of available financial instruments, the document highlights operational aspects such as:

- specific funding instruments and their scope;
- funding mechanisms;
- eligibility for participation;
- existing resources to support participation;
- indications on how to apply.

This guidebook aims at improving the understanding of the many opportunities for collaboration with the European Union and be a supportive practical tool for the further implementation of THE PEP workplan.



## ***The Europe 2020 strategy***

Following the deep economic crisis, which hit most of the European and the Third Countries, the European Commission launched, on 3 March 2010, the Europe 2020 Strategy to get out of the crisis, to revive the economy of the European Union and prepare EU economy for the next decade.

The Commission identified three key drivers for growth, to be implemented through concrete actions at EU and national levels:

- *smart growth* (fostering knowledge, innovation, education and digital society);
- *sustainable growth* (making our production more resource efficient while boosting our competitiveness);
- *inclusive growth* (raising participation in the labour market, the acquisition of skills and the fight against poverty).

This battle for growth and jobs requires ownership at top political level and mobilisation from all actors across Europe.

The strategy follows the Lisbon Strategy for the period 2000–2010 and has identified five ambitious objectives - employment, innovation, education, social inclusion and climate/energy - to be reached by 2020. Each Member State has adopted its own national targets in each of these areas. Concrete actions at EU and national levels underpin the strategy.

The five objectives are:

- to raise the employment rate of the population aged 20–64 from the current 69% to at least 75%;
- to achieve the target of investing 3% of GDP in R&D in particular by improving the conditions for R&D investment by the private sector, and develop a new indicator to track innovation;
- **to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20%** compared to 1990 levels or by 30% if the conditions are right, increase the share of renewable energy in final energy consumption to 20%, and achieve a 20% increase in energy efficiency;
- to reduce the share of early school leavers to 10% from the current 15% and increase the share of the population aged 30–34 having completed tertiary from 31% to at least 40%;
- to reduce the number of Europeans living below national poverty lines by 25%, lifting 20 million people out of poverty.

Europe 2020 Strategy has also identified new engines to boost growth and jobs. These areas are addressed by seven flagship initiatives whose implementation is a shared priority, and requires actions at all levels:

- EU-level organisations
- Member States
- Local and regional authorities.



Within each initiative, both the EU and national authorities have to coordinate their efforts so they are mutually reinforcing.



## The seven flagship initiatives

EU Commission has established seven flagship initiatives, which provide a work plan for the Europe 2020 priorities

### Smart growth priority

- ✦ ***A digital agenda for Europe:*** to speed up the roll-out of high-speed internet and reap the benefits of a digital single market for households and firms.
- ✦ ***Innovation Union:*** to improve framework conditions and access to finance for research and innovation to strengthen the innovation chain and boost levels of investment throughout the Union.
- ✦ ***Youth on the move:*** to enhance the performance of education systems and to reinforce the international attractiveness of Europe's higher education.

### Sustainable growth priority

- ✦ ***Resource efficient Europe:*** to help decouple economic growth from the use of resources, by decarbonising the economy, increasing the use of renewable sources, modernising the transport sector and promoting energy efficiency.
- ✦ ***An industrial policy for the globalisation era:*** to improve the business environment, especially for SMEs, and to support the development of a strong and sustainable industrial base able to compete globally.

### Inclusive growth

- ✦ ***An agenda for new skills and jobs:*** to modernise labour markets by facilitating labour mobility and the development of skills throughout the lifecycle with a view to increasing labour participation and better matching labour supply and demand.
- ✦ ***European platform against poverty:*** to ensure social and territorial cohesion such that the benefits of growth and jobs are widely shared and people experiencing poverty and social exclusion are enabled to live in dignity and take an active part in society.

More information about Europe 2020 are available on the following web site:

[http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/europe-2020-in-a-nutshell/flagship-initiatives/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/europe-2020-in-a-nutshell/flagship-initiatives/index_en.htm)

## 2030 framework for climate and energy policies

As regards climate and energy policies, EU leaders agreed on 23 October 2014 the domestic 2030 greenhouse gas reduction target of at least 40% compared to 1990 together with the other main building blocks of the 2030 policy framework for climate and energy, as proposed by the European Commission in January 2014. This 2030 policy framework aims to make the European Union's economy and energy system more competitive, secure and sustainable and also sets a target of at least 27% for renewable energy and energy savings by 2030.

While the EU is making good progress towards meeting its climate and energy targets for 2020, an integrated policy framework for the period up to 2030 is needed to ensure regulatory certainty for investors and a coordinated approach among Member States.

The framework presented will drive continued progress towards a low-carbon economy. It aims to build a competitive and secure energy system that ensures affordable energy for all consumers, increases the security of the EU's energy supplies, reduces our dependence on energy imports and creates new opportunities for growth and jobs.

The new goals are therefore:

### *Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40%*

A centre piece of the framework is the binding target to reduce EU domestic greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% below the 1990 level by 2030.

This target will ensure that the EU is on the cost-effective track towards meeting its objective of cutting emissions by at least 80% by 2050. By setting its level of climate ambition for 2030, the EU will also be able to engage actively in the negotiations on a new international climate agreement that should take effect in 2020.

To achieve the overall 40% target, the sectors covered by the EU *emissions trading system (EU ETS)* would have to reduce their emissions by 43% compared to 2005. Emissions from sectors outside the EU ETS would need to be cut by 30% below the 2005 level. This will need to be translated into Member State targets. The European Council has outlined the main principles to achieve this.

### *Increasing the share of renewable energy to at least 27%*

Renewable energy will play a key role in the transition towards a competitive, secure and sustainable energy system. The Commission proposed an objective of increasing the share of renewable energy to at least 27% of the EU's energy consumption by 2030. The European Council endorsed this target, which is binding at EU level.

### *Increasing energy efficiency by at least 27%*

The European Commission proposed a 30% energy savings target for 2030, following a review of the Energy Efficiency Directive. The proposed target builds on the achievements already reached: new buildings use half the energy they did in the 1980s and industry is about 19% less energy intensive than in 2001. The European Council, however, endorsed an indicative target of 27% to be reviewed in 2020 having in mind a 30% target.

### *Reform of the EU emissions trading system*

The EU ETS will be reformed and strengthened. A 43% greenhouse gas reduction target in 2030 in the ETS translates into a cap declining by 2.2% annually from 2021 onwards, instead of the rate of 1.74% up to 2020.

In January 2014, the Commission proposed to establish a market stability reserve from 2021 onwards. This is to address the surplus of emission allowances in the EU ETS that has built up in recent years and to improve the system's resilience to major shocks. This will ensure that in the future, the EU ETS is more robust and effective in promoting low-carbon investment at least cost to society.

The European Council underlined that a reformed, well-functioning ETS with an instrument to stabilise the market in line with the Commission's proposal will be the main instrument to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions.

#### *New governance system*

The 2030 framework proposed a new governance framework based on national plans for competitive, secure and sustainable energy as well as a set of key indicators to assess progress over time. The European Council agreed that a reliable and transparent governance system would be developed to help ensure that the EU meets its energy policy goals.

## **Roadmap for moving to a low-carbon economy in 2050**

The European Commission is looking at cost-efficient ways to make the European economy more climate-friendly and less energy consuming. By 2050, the European Union could cut most of its greenhouse gas emissions. Clean technologies are the future for Europe's economy.

For the short term, the EU has put in place legislation to reduce its emissions to 20% below 1990 levels by 2020, and data show it is well on track to reach this target. Europe is also offering to step up this cut to 30% if other major economies agree to do their fair share of a global reduction effort.

#### *Need for bigger climate efforts*

With its Roadmap for moving to a competitive low-carbon economy in 2050, the European Commission has looked beyond these short-term objectives and set out a cost-effective pathway for achieving much deeper emission cuts by the middle of the century. All major economies will need to make deep emission reductions if global warming is to be held below 2°C compared to the temperature in pre-industrial times.

The Roadmap is one of the long-term policy plans put forward under the Resource Efficient Europe flagship initiative intended to put the EU on course to using resources in a sustainable way.

The Roadmap suggests that, by 2050, the EU should cut its emissions to 80% below 1990 levels through domestic reductions alone. It sets out milestones, which form a cost-effective pathway to this goal - reductions of the order of 40% by 2030 and 60% by 2040. It also shows how the main sectors responsible for Europe's emissions - power generation, industry, transport, buildings and construction, as well as agriculture - can make the transition to a low-carbon economy most cost-effectively.

#### *Towards a low-carbon society*

In a low-carbon society, we will live and work in low-energy, low-emission buildings with intelligent heating and cooling systems. We will drive electric and hybrid cars and live in cleaner cities with less air pollution

and better public transport. Many of these technologies exist today but need to be developed further. Besides cutting the vast majority of its emissions, Europe could also reduce its use of key resources like oil and gas, raw materials, land and water.

#### *Innovation, green growth & jobs*

The transition to a low-carbon society would boost Europe's economy thanks to increased innovation and investment in clean technologies and low - or zero-carbon energy.

A low-carbon economy would have a much greater need for renewable sources of energy, energy-efficient building materials, hybrid and electric cars, 'smart grid' equipment, low-carbon power generation and carbon capture and storage technologies.

To make the transition the EU would need to invest an additional €270 billion or 1.5% of its GDP annually, on average, over the next four decades. The extra investment would take Europe back to the investment levels seen before the economic crisis, and would spur growth within a wide range of manufacturing sectors and environmental services.

Up to 1.5 million additional jobs could be created by 2020 if governments used revenues from CO2 taxes and from auctioning of emission allowances to reduce labour costs.

#### *Saving energy and resources*

Energy efficiency will be a key driver of the transition. By moving to a low-carbon society, the EU could be using around 30% less energy in 2050 than in 2005. Households and businesses would enjoy more secure and efficient energy services.

More locally produced energy would be used, mostly from renewable sources. As a result, the EU would be less dependent on expensive imports of oil and gas and less vulnerable to increases in oil prices. On average, the EU could save € 175-320 billion annually in fuel costs over the next 40 years.

#### *Cleaner air*

Greater use of clean technologies and electric cars will drastically reduce air pollution in European cities. Fewer people would suffer from asthma and other respiratory diseases; considerably less money would need to be spent on health care and on equipment to control air pollution. By 2050, the EU could save up to €88 billion a year in these areas.



#### **For more information**

The 2020 climate and energy package

[http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/package/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/package/index_en.htm)

2030 framework for climate and energy policies

[http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/2030/documentation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/2030/documentation_en.htm)

Roadmap for moving to a low-carbon economy in 2050

[http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/roadmap/documentation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/roadmap/documentation_en.htm)

## **The main financial mechanisms of the EU**

In order to achieve its strategic objectives, the European Union (EU) has set up two different modalities of financial instruments:

- A. the **indirect management**, which includes:
  - European Structural and Investment Funds
- B. the **direct management**, which includes:
  - EU direct funding
  - External assistance financial instruments

Financial support from EU is usually provided on a project selection procedure. The EU, through its various financial instruments promotes cooperation and synergy across and outside Europe.

### **The difference between direct and indirect funding**

To the "**indirect funding**" group belong the so-called "European Structural and Investment Funds", which are the financial tools set up to implement the Cohesion policy, and are also referred to as the Regional policy of the European Union. They aim to reduce regional disparities in terms of income, wealth and opportunities. Europe's poorer regions receive most of the support, but all European regions are eligible for funding under the policy's various funds and programmes.



The **European Structural and Investment Funds** are made up of the

- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- The Cohesion Fund (CF)
- European Social Fund (ESF).

Together with the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), they make up the European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds.

In the **indirect funding**, (the Structural Funds) the Community budget, is spent through a system of shared responsibility between the European Commission and the Member State authorities:

- the Commission negotiates and approves the development programmes proposed by the Member States, and allocates resources;
- the Member States and their regions manage the programmes, implement them by selecting projects, control and assess them;
- the Commission is involved in programme monitoring, commits, pays out approved expenditure, and verifies the control systems.

For each operational programme, the Member State appoints:

- **a managing authority** (a national, regional or local public authority or public/private body to manage the Operational Programme);
- **a certification body** (a national, regional or local public authority or body to certify the statement of expenditure and the payment applications before their transmission to the Commission);
- **an auditing body** (a national, regional or local public authority or body for each Operational Programme to oversee the efficient running of the management and monitoring system).

In the **Direct funding** also known as, “community programmes”, the European Union, through the different General Directorates of the European Commission manage directly the EU budget in the different sectors (research, education, environment, transport etc.). European Commission transfers directly the funds to the beneficiaries who use the budget to implement the awarded projects.

Another important distinction lies in the fact that European Structural and Investment Funds, support mainly infrastructure structures, whereas the direct tools fund mostly innovative ideas, best practices transfer, studies and research to be implemented in partnership with other countries.

### How do I apply?

- Applications, within the European Structural and Investment Funds, are managed at national and regional level. As a result, they are submitted to and evaluated by national and regional Authorities.
- For EU grants, application procedures are set out in the call for proposals for specific programmes and project proposers apply directly to the European Commission or an executive agency, which runs the programme in question.

### ***The difference between grants and public contracts***

The General Directorates of the European Commission to implement the European Programmes may use two types of procedures:

- **Grants:** awarded to the beneficiary to co-finance specific projects or objectives and usually obtained through call for proposals.
- **Public contracts:** awarded through call for tenders (public procurement) to buy services, goods, works in order to ensure the operations of EU Institutions, or programmes.

## THE PEP and the EU funding instruments at a glance

The following table provides a synthetic overview of existing instruments, which will be further discussed in the following sections.

Funding line	Area of relevance	Who can apply	Funding mechanism	Who can help?	Beneficiary Countries
<b>DIRECT FUNDING</b>					
Life	Environment	All Member States' authorities and public bodies (at national, regional and local level), the private sector (including SMEs), NGOs and other non-profit organisations, and civil society groups	Call for proposals published on the Official Journal of the EU or on the DG website	DG Environment (ENV)  National Contact Point, usually the National Environment Ministries of the Member States	EU Member States European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries Switzerland Candidate countries: ENI Countries Countries which have become members of the European Environmental Agency in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 933/1999.
COSME	Environment	SMEs, NGOs, public authorities, Entrepreneurs	Call for proposals published on the Official Journal of the EU or on the DG website	DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (GROW)  Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME)	EU Member States

				Financial intermediaries located in the EU countries	
Connecting Europe Facility	Environment Transport Health	Public Sector, Non-Profit Organizations, Academic institutions and research centers from EU Member States	Call for proposals published on the Official Journal of the EU or on the DG website	DG Communications Networks, Content and Technology (CNECT)	EU Member States Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine Other third Countries: Algeria Azerbaijan Georgia Israel Turkmenistan
Horizon 2020	Environment Transport Health Energy Climate change	Research groups at Universities and research Institutes SMEs, industries Public administrations Researchers International organizations Civil society Organizations	Call for proposals to be published on the Official Journal of the EU or on EU Participant Portal	Different thematic DGs National Contact Points Cordis Help desk EU Participant Portal	EU Member States Candidate countries EFTA Countries ENI Countries Selected third countries that have a good capacity in science, technology and innovation
EU Third Health Programme	Health	Research institutes and universities Public authorities NGO's Commercial firms	Call for proposals to be published on the Official Journal of the EU or on the website of the DG	DG Health and Food Safety (SANTE) CHAFEA, Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency	All EU countries, Iceland and Norway
Consumer programme	Health	government entities public bodies and national and EU level consumer organisations	Call for proposals to be published on the Official Journal of the EU or on the DG website	DG Health and Food Safety (SANTE)	EU Member States EFTA countries



		officials		CHAFEA, Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency	Candidate countries ENI countries
Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II)	Environment Transport Health	Any natural and legal person based in the eligible countries (under eligible component)	Call for tenders to be published on the Official Journal of the EU (TED database) or on the website of the DG	DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR)	EU candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey
The European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI)	Transport Environment Health	Decentralised institutions and entities in partner countries and regions Mixed organisations, International and regional organisations International financial institutions European institutions and agencies to a certain extent Non-governmental players	Call for tenders to be published on the Official Journal of the EU (Ted database) or on the DG website	DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR)	<b>In the</b> <b>South:</b> Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia <b>In the East:</b> Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Russia takes part in Cross- Border Cooperation activities under the ENP but is not a part of the ENP as such.
Development Co- operation Instrument (DCI)	Transport Environment Health	Regions Institutions Local governments in the partner countries Non state actors International organizations	Call for tenders to be published on the Official Journal of the EU (TED database) or on the website of the DG	International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)	Latin America, South Asia, North and South-East Asia, Central Asia, Middle

		EU agencies			East, other countries most in need
Partnership Instrument (PI)	Environment Health	Any Legal entities	Call for tenders to be published on the Official Journal of the EU (TED database) or on the website of the DG	DG Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI)	Industrialised countries, emerging economies (like India, China and Brasil), countries where the EU has significant interests.
European Development Fund (EDF)			Call for tenders to be published on the Official Journal of the EU (TED database) or on the website of the DG	DG International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO)	African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries (ACPs) and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs).
<b>INDIRECT FUNDING</b>					
European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)	Transport, Environment Health	Public bodies Some private sector organisations (especially small businesses) Universities and associations NGOs and voluntary organisations. Foreign firms with a base in the region covered by the relevant operational programme	Applications have to be sent to National and Regional Authorities	The Managing Authorities of the Single Regional or national Operational Programmes	EU Member States
Objective Territorial Cooperation	Transport Environment	Public bodies Some private sector organisations (especially small businesses) Universities and associations NGOs and voluntary organisations. Foreign firms with a base in the region covered by the relevant operational programme	Applications have to be sent to the Programme Secretariat	The Managing Authorities of the Single Operational Programmes	EU Member States IPA countries ENI countries

**European Free Trade Association (EFTA)** countries, which are parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA): Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein;

**Candidate countries:** Iceland, Macedonia, Montenegro, Turkey, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina; Kosovo

**ENI countries:** Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldavia Republic, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine and Palestine.

## **The indirect funding: the European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020 (ESIF)**

EU cohesion policy has been a force for change over the last ten years. It has been making a genuine contribution to convergence and growth in the EU and directly creating over one million jobs, investing in training to improve the employability of over ten million people, co-financing the construction of over 2.000km of motorway and 4.00km of railway and setting up at least 800.000 Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs). To continue this work in the future and strengthen the focus on European economic priorities the European Commission has adopted a legislative package for cohesion policy for the period from 2014 until 2020. It is designed to boost growth and jobs across Europe by targeting EU investment on Europe's Growth and Jobs Agenda ("Europe 2020"). The focus on fewer investment priorities in line with these objectives is at the heart of the new Partnership Contracts, which Member States have to agree with the European Commission. They set clear targets and set aside a financial performance reserve to reward regions who do best in reaching their goals. To ensure that the impact on growth and jobs of EU investments is not undermined by unsound macro-economic policies or by weak administrative capacity Commission can ask to review programmes or suspend the funding if the Member State does not take remedial action.

The impact of the funds is also be strengthened by simplifying and harmonizing the rules of different funds, including rural development and maritime and fisheries. One set of rules for five different funds and a more integrated approach make sure the various funds serve coherent goals and strengthen each other's impact.

### ***The EU Regional policy***

The regional policy (also called 'cohesion policy') of the European Union has the overall goal of promoting economic prosperity and social cohesion throughout the entire territory of the Union, which means the 28 member states.

Article 174 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) provides that, in order to strengthen its economic, social and territorial cohesion, European Union has to reduce disparities between the levels of development of the various regions. Special attention is also paid to the least favoured regions or islands, and to rural areas, areas affected by industrial transition, and regions that suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps.

Regional Policy targets all regions and cities in the European Union in order to support job creation, business competitiveness, economic growth, sustainable development, and improve citizens' quality of life.

In order to reach these goals and address the diverse development needs in all EU regions, € 351.8 billion – almost a third of the total EU budget – has been set aside for Cohesion Policy for 2014-2020.

Regional Policy is delivered through three main funds:

- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- Cohesion Fund (CF)
- European Social Fund (ESF).

Every European region may benefit from the support of ERDF and ESF and CF even if a distinction between less developed, transition and more developed regions exist in order to ensure concentration of the Funds according to the level of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The bulk of Cohesion Policy funding is however concentrated on less developed European countries and regions in order to help them to catch up and to reduce the economic, social and territorial disparities that still exist in the EU.

In the current programming period, the regions have redefined and their statute in terms of eligibility and allocation has been thus simplified. We now have three types of regions:

➤ *Less developed regions*

Supporting the less developed regions is an important priority for cohesion policy. The catching-up process of less developed regions requires long-term sustained efforts. This category concerns those regions whose GDP per capita is less than 75% of the average GDP of the EU-28.

➤ *Transition regions*

This new category of regions, newly introduced, has replaced the past phasing-in and phasing-out system. This category includes all regions with a GDP per capita between 75% and 90% of the EU-28 average.

➤ *More developed regions*

While interventions in the less developed regions is the priority for cohesion policy, there are important challenges that concern all Member States, such as global competition in the knowledge-based economy and the shift towards the low carbon economy. This category concerns those regions whose GDP per capita is above 90% of the average GDP of the EU-28.

Cohesion policy uses the EU's NUTS system, which divides each country into three levels of statistical units (NUTS regions), according to population size. The EU is currently divided into 274 'level 2' regions, all of which are covered by cohesion policy.

The "nomenclature of territorial units for statistics (NUTS)", was created by the European Office for Statistics (Eurostat) in order to apply a common statistical standard across the European Union.

NUTS levels are geographical areas used to collect harmonised data in the EU. They have been used in the Structural Funds since 1988 and play an important role in allocating Structural Funds.

The current nomenclature subdivides the 28 Member States into three categories, according to specific population thresholds:

- **NUTS level 1:** includes smaller Member States such as Denmark, Ireland and Slovenia, the German Länder and other large regions.
- **NUTS level 2:** includes the autonomous regions in Spain, French regions and overseas departments (DOM), Polish Voivodships, etc.
- **NUTS level 3:** includes Nomoi in Greece, Maakunnat in Finland, Swedish Län, etc.

EU Regulations contain full definitions and listings of all NUTS regions.

## ***What is new in the programming period 2014-2020?***

Compared to the programming period 2007-2013, this programming periods has introduced some news such as:

- **stronger focus on results:** clearer and measurable targets for better accountability;
- **simplification:** one set of rules for five Funds;

- **conditions:** introduction of specific preconditions before funds can be channeled;
- **strengthened urban dimension and fight for social inclusion:** a minimum amount of ERDF earmarked for integrated projects in cities and of ESF to support marginalised communities;
- link to **economic reform:** the Commission may suspend funding for a Member State which does not comply with EU economic rules.

## ***The 11 thematic objectives of the regional policy***

All national programming documents are to choose their objectives and develop priorities based on a limited list of thematic objectives, which come in support of the Europe 2020 Strategy's objectives and targets. Cohesion Policy has thus set 11 thematic objectives supporting growth for the period 2014-2020 which are:

### Smart Growth

1. strengthening research, technological development and innovation;
2. enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies;
3. enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs;
4. supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy.

### Sustainable Growth

5. promoting **climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management;**
6. preserving and **protecting the environment** and promoting resource efficiency;
7. promoting **sustainable transport** and improving network infrastructures;

### Inclusive growth

8. promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility;
9. promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination;
10. investing in education, training and lifelong learning;
11. improving the efficiency of public administration.

**Investment from the ERDF** support all 11 objectives, but **1-4 are the main priorities** for investment. **Main priorities for the ESF** are **8-11**, though the Fund also supports 1-4. The **Cohesion Fund** supports objectives 4-7 and 11.

## ***The four key principles of the cohesion policy***

Four key principles underpin cohesion policy:

### Concentration

This principle has three aspects:

- **Concentration of resources:** the greater part of structural fund resources (70% for 2014-2020) are concentrated on the poorest regions and countries.
- **Concentration of effort:** targeting investments on Key Growth Priorities
  - Research and Innovation
  - Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
  - Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
  - Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy
- **Concentration of spending:** at the beginning of each programming period, annual funding is allocated to each programme. These funds must be spent by the end of the second year after their allocation (known as the N+2 rule)

### Programming

Cohesion policy does not fund individual projects. Instead, it funds multi-annual national programmes aligned on EU objectives and priorities.

### Partnership

Each programme is developed through a collective process involving authorities at European, regional and local level, social partners and organisations from civil society.

This partnership applies to all stages of the programming process, from design, through management and implementation to monitoring and evaluation. This approach helps ensure that action is adapted to local and regional needs and priorities.

### Additionality




Financing from the European structural funds may not replace national spending by a member country.

The Commission agrees with each country upon the level of eligible public (or equivalent) spending to be maintained throughout the programming period, and checks on compliance in the middle of the programming period (2018), and at the end (2022).

The objective is to set realistic but ambitious targets for structural public spending to ensure that contribution of the structural funds really does add value. As a rule, average annual spending in real terms should not be less than in the previous programming period.



### Where to get information on cohesion policy 2014-2020

-  Eurostat – NUTS classification  
<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>
-  Cohesion policy Frequently Asked Questions  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/faq/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/faq/)
-  The EU Investment policy  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/what/investment-policy/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/what/investment-policy/)

## The Cohesion policy funding system

In 2014-2020 over 351 billion euro are available to EU Member States, regions and cities under the Cohesion Policy (European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund). For many of these countries it is the main source of public funding. It is imperative this money is well invested and managed as weaknesses in national, regional and local administrations can put the success of these programmes at risk.

For the 2007-2013 period, there are allocated funds under Cohesion Policy still to be invested. The Commission wants to help Member States avoid losing valuable investments and make sure money is spent properly and in the right kinds of projects that people will benefit from.

### **The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**

The ERDF aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between its regions. It focuses its investments on several key priority areas. This is known as 'thematic concentration':

- innovation and research;
- the digital agenda;
- support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs);
- the low-carbon economy.

The ERDF resources allocated to these priorities will depend on the category of region.

- In more developed regions, at least 80% of funds must focus on at least two of these priorities;
- In transition regions, this focus is for 60% of the funds;
- This is 50% in less developed regions.

Furthermore, some ERDF resources must be channelled specifically towards low-carbon economy projects:

- more developed regions: 20%;
- transition regions: 15%;
- less developed regions: 12%.

#### [European Territorial Cooperation](#)

Under the European Territorial Cooperation programmes, at least 80% of funds will be concentrated on the four priority areas mentioned above.

#### [Specific Territorial Characteristics](#)

The ERDF also gives particular attention to specific territorial characteristics. ERDF action is designed to reduce economic, environmental and social problems in urban areas, with a special focus on sustainable urban development. At least 5% of the ERDF resources are set aside for this field, through 'integrated actions' managed by cities.

Areas that are naturally disadvantaged from a geographical viewpoint (remote, mountainous or sparsely populated areas) benefit from special treatment. Lastly, the outermost areas also benefit from specific assistance from the ERDF to address possible disadvantages due to their remoteness.

### **The European Social Fund (ESF)**

The ESF invests in people, with a focus on improving employment and education opportunities across the European Union. It also aims to improve the situation of the most vulnerable people at risk of poverty.



The ESF investments cover all EU regions. More than € 80 billion is earmarked for human capital investment in Member States between 2014 and 2020, with an extra of at least € 3.2 billion allocated to the Youth Employment Initiative.

For the 2014-2020 period, the ESF will focus on four of the cohesion policy's thematic objectives:

- promoting employment and supporting labour mobility;
- promoting social inclusion and combating poverty;
- investing in education, skills and lifelong learning;
- enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration.

In addition, 20% of ESF investments will be committed to activities improving social inclusion and combating poverty. This is known as thematic concentration.

### ***The Cohesion Fund***

The Cohesion Fund allocates a total of € 63.4 billion to activities under the following categories:

- **trans-european transport networks**, notably priority projects of European interest as identified by the EU. The Cohesion Fund will support infrastructure projects under the Connecting Europe Facility;
- **environment**: here, the Cohesion Fund can also support projects related to energy or transport, as long as they clearly benefit the environment in terms of energy efficiency, use of renewable energy, developing rail transport, supporting intermodality, strengthening public transport, etc.

The financial assistance of the Cohesion Fund can be suspended by a Council decision (taken by qualified majority) if a Member State shows excessive public deficit and if it has not resolved the situation or has not taken the appropriate action to do so.

### ***The Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)***

With a total budget of almost €100 billion for the period 2014-2020, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) works to strengthen the EU's agriculture, forestry sector and rural areas. Rural Development projects can receive support from the EAFRD via grants – support that does not have to be repaid – but also, increasingly, through financial instruments.

Financial Instruments come in many shapes. They can take the form of loans, guarantees or equity, but they also have a number of things in common:

- they are expected to be repaid;
- they are revolving, i.e. once funds are being repaid, they can be used again in the same area;
- they target financially viable projects, i.e. those which are expected to generate enough profit to pay back the support;
- they are designed to increase the total amount of investments in rural areas by also attracting investments from other sources;
- they can be used together with grants;
- they may be managed by national or regional banks, international organisations such as the European Investment Bank or the European Investment Fund, by financial intermediaries, and (for loans and guarantees only) by Managing Authorities.

Financial instruments can be used to support the investment priorities outlined in the Member States' and Regions' Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) but it is a requirement that they are activated where there are market gaps – where farmers and other rural entrepreneurs cannot raise funds from banks and other private investors.

## **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)**

The EMFF is the fund for the EU's maritime and fisheries policies for 2014-2020. It is one of the five European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds, which complement each other and seek to promote a growth and job based recovery in Europe.

The fund:

- helps fishermen in the transition to sustainable fishing;
- supports coastal communities in diversifying their economies;
- finances projects that create new jobs and improve quality of life along European coasts;
- makes it easier for applicants to access financing.

The Fund can co-finance projects, along with national funding. Each country receives a share of the total Fund budget, based on the size of its fishing industry.

Each country then draws up an Operational Programme, saying how it intends to spend the money. Once the Commission approves this programme, it is up to the national authorities to decide which projects will be funded.

The National Authorities and the Commission are jointly responsible for the implementation of the programme.

To see if a project is eligible for EMFF support, interested bodies have to check with the National Authority in charge of managing the Operational Programme in their country. After they have to follow the relevant application procedures so that the Managing Authority can check the eligibility of the project and if it meets the relevant selection criteria and investment priorities.

## **European Territorial Cooperation**

European Territorial Cooperation (ETC), better known as Interreg, is one of the two goals of cohesion policy and provides a framework for the implementation of joint actions and policy exchanges between national, regional and local actors from different Member States. The overarching objective of European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) is to promote a harmonious economic, social and territorial development of the Union as a whole. Interreg foresees three strands of cooperation:

- cross-border (Interreg A);
- transnational (Interreg B);
- interregional (Interreg C).

Over the years, Interreg has become the key instrument of the European Union to support cooperation between partners across borders. Its aim is to tackle common challenges together and find shared solutions in the field of health, research and education, transport or sustainable energy.

European Territorial Cooperation provides a framework for the exchanges of experience between national, regional and local actors from different Member States, as well as joint action to find common solutions to shared problems. This is all the more important given that the challenges faced by Member States and Regions increasingly cut across national/regional boundaries and require joint, cooperative action at the appropriate territorial level. European Territorial Cooperation provides an important contribution to fostering the Lisbon Treaty objective of territorial cohesion.

The fifth period of Interreg is based on 11 investment priorities laid down in the ERDF Regulation contributing to the delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. At least, 80% of the budget for each cooperation programme has to concentrate on a maximum of four thematic objectives among the eleven EU priorities:

The current programming period of Interreg has a budget of EUR 10.1 billion invested in over 100 cooperation programmes between regions and territorial, social and economic partners. This budget also includes the ERDF allocation for Member States to participate in EU external border cooperation programmes supported by other instruments (like the Instrument for Pre-Accession and European Neighborhood Instrument).

The current programming period 2014-2020 covers all 28 EU Member States, 3 participating EFTA countries (Norway, Switzerland and Lichtenstein), 6 accession countries and 18 neighbouring countries.

Territorial cooperation thus funds:

- *60 Cross-border*: Interreg V-A, along 38 internal EU borders;
- *12 IPA Cross-border*: Instrument for Pre-Accession and European Neighborhood Instrument;
- *16 ENI Cross-border*: International Cooperation and Development;
- *15 Transnational*: Interreg V-B, covering larger areas of co-operation such as the Baltic Sea, Alpine and Mediterranean regions;
- *The interregional co-operation programme*, INTERREG Europe, and three networking programmes (Urbact III, Interact III and ESPON) cover all 28 Member States of the EU. They provide a framework for exchanging experiences between regional and local bodies in different countries.

A separate regulation was adopted for European Territorial Cooperation to take better account of the multi-country context of the programmes and make more specific provisions for cooperation programmes and operations.

The resource allocations is as follows:

- 6.6 billions euro for cross-border cooperation (Interreg VA) of which:
  - 242 millions euro for Interreg IPA
  - 634 millions euro for Interreg ENI
- 2.1 billions euro for transnational cooperation (Interreg VB);
- 0.5 billions euro for interregional cooperation (Interreg VC).

The continuation of the mechanism for the transfer of resources for cooperation activities at the external borders of the European Union is supported under the European Neighbourhood and Instrument (ENI) and the instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance.

## Interreg V A - Cross-border cooperation

European Cross-Border cooperation, known as Interreg A, supports cooperation between NUTS III regions from at least two different Member States lying directly on the borders or adjacent to them. It aims to tackle common challenges identified jointly in the border regions and to exploit the untapped growth potential in border areas, while enhancing the cooperation process for the purposes of the overall harmonious development of the Union.

37.5% of the EU population lives in border areas, along some 38 internal borders made up of geographic, linguistic barriers often bearing the scars of European wars. In some border areas, cooperation is still healing the scars of history and turn recent “enemies” into “neighbours” to foster sustainable trust along many borders is difficult. Neighborhood is a stepping stone towards more mature stages of cooperation ranging from tackling common handicaps – especially risk prevention and emergency response activities - to more integrated cooperation approaches aiming at exploiting together untapped potential to boost economic development in often peripheral regions.

For the period 2014-2020, Interreg V A covers 60 cross border operational programs ERDF allocation: euro 6.6 billion (accounting for the biggest Interreg spending).

Joint structures, situated in one of the countries, manage the cross-border cooperation programmes and are responsible for the whole programme.

### List of cross-border cooperation programmes

The following is the list of cross-border cooperation programmes with indication of the global amount of the total European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) support for each cross-border cooperation programme.

No	Name of the programme	Countries involved	Global ERDF contribution in euro
1	Interreg V-A Belgium-Germany-The Netherlands	BE-DE-NL	96 000 250
2	Interreg V-A Austria-Czech Republic	AT-CZ	97 814 933
3	Interreg V-A Slovakia-Austria	SK-AT	75 892 681
4	Interreg V-A Austria- Germany/Bavaria	AT-DE	54 478 064
5	Interreg V-A Spain-Portugal (POCTEP)	ES-PT	288 977 635

<b>6</b>	Interreg V-A Spain-France-Andorra	ES-FR-AD	189 341 397
<b>7</b>	Interreg V-A Spain-Portugal (Madeira, Acores- Canaria (MAC))	ES-PT	66 675 837
<b>8</b>	Interreg V-A Hungary-Croatia	HU-HR	60 824 406
<b>9</b>	Interreg V-A Germany/Bavaria-Czech Republic	DE-CZ	103 375 149
<b>10</b>	Interreg V-A Austria-Hungary	AT-HU	78 847 880
<b>11</b>	Interreg V-A Germany/Brandenburg-Poland	DE-PL	100 152 579
<b>12</b>	Interreg V-A Poland-Slovakia	PL-SK	154 988 723
<b>13</b>	Interreg V-A Poland-Denmark-Germany-Lithuania-Sweden	PL-DK-DE-LT-SE	82 978 784
<b>14</b>	Interreg V-A Finland-Estonia-Latvia-Sweden (Central Baltic)	FI-EE-LV-SE	122 360 390
<b>15</b>	Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary	SK-HU	155 808 987
<b>16</b>	Interreg V-A Sweden-Norway	SE-NO	47 199 965
<b>17</b>	Interreg V-A Germany/Saxony-Czech Republic	DE-CZ	157 967 067
<b>18</b>	Interreg V-A Poland-Germany/Saxony	PL-DE	70 000 069
<b>19</b>	Interreg V-A Germany/Mecklenburg-Western Poland/Brandenburg-Poland	DE-PL	134 000 414
<b>20</b>	Interreg V-A Greece-Italy	EL-IT	104 700 362
<b>21</b>	Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria	RO-BG	215 745 513
<b>22</b>	Interreg V-A Greece-Bulgaria	EL-BG	110 241 234
<b>23</b>	Interreg V-A Germany-The Netherlands	DE-NL	222 159 360
<b>24</b>	Interreg V-A Germany-Austria-Switzerland-Liechtenstein (Alpenheim-Bodensee-Hochrein)	DE-AT-CH-LI	39 588 430
<b>25</b>	Interreg V-A Czech Republic-Poland	CZ-PL	226 221 710
<b>26</b>	Interreg V-A Sweden-Denmark-Norway (Oresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak)	SE-DK-NO	135 688 261
<b>27</b>	Interreg V-A Latvia-Lithuania	LV-LT	54 966 201
<b>28</b>	Interreg V-A Sweden-Finland-Norway (Botnia-Atlantica)	SE-FI-NO	36 334 420
<b>29</b>	Interreg V-A Slovenia-Croatia	SI-HR	46 114 193
<b>30</b>	Interreg V-A Slovakia-Czech Republic	SK-CZ	90 139 463
<b>31</b>	Interreg V-A Lithuania-Poland	LT-PL	51 488 135
<b>32</b>	Interreg V-A Sweden-Finland-Norway (Nord)	SE-FI-NO	41 951 870
<b>33</b>	Interreg V-A Italy-France (Maritime)	IT-FR	169 702 411
<b>34</b>	Interreg V-A Italy-France (Alcotra)	IT-FR	198 876 285
<b>35</b>	Interreg V-A Italy-Switzerland	IT-CH	100 221 466
<b>36</b>	Interreg V-A Italy-Slovenia	IT-SI	77 929 954
<b>37</b>	Interreg V-A Italy-Malta	IT-MT	43 952 171
<b>38</b>	Interreg V-A France-Belgium-The Netherlands-United Kingdom (Les Deux Mers/Two Seas/Twee Zeeen)	FR-NL-BE-UK	256 648 702
<b>39</b>	Interreg V-A France-Germany-Switzerland-(Rhin supérieur-Oberrhein)	FR-DE-CH	109 704 965
<b>40</b>	Interreg V-A France-United Kingdom (Manche-Channel)	FR-UK	223 046 948
<b>41</b>	Interreg V-A France-Switzerland	FR-CH	65 890 505
<b>42</b>	Interreg V-A Italy-Croatia	IT-HR	201 357 220
<b>43</b>	Interreg V-A France (Saint Martin-Sint Maarten)	FR	10 000 000
<b>44</b>	Interreg V-A Belgium-France (France-Wallonia-Flanders)	BE-FR	169 977 045
<b>45</b>	Interreg V-A France-Belgium-Germany-Luxemburg (Grande Région/Grossregion)	FR-BE-DE-LU	139 802 646
<b>46</b>	Interreg V-A Belgium-The Netherlands (Vlaanderen-Nederland)	BE-NL	152 575 585
<b>47</b>	Interreg V-A United Kingdom-Ireland (Ireland-North Ireland-Scotland)	UK-IE	240 347 696
<b>48</b>	Interreg V-A Ireland-United Kingdom (Ireland Wales)	IE-UK	79 198 450

<b>49</b>	Interreg V-A Hungary-Romania	HU-RO	189 138 672
<b>50</b>	Interreg V-A Estonia-Latvia	EE-LV	38 020 684
<b>51</b>	Interreg V-A France (Mayotte/Comores/Madagascar)	FR	12 028 883
<b>52</b>	Interreg V-A Italy-Austria	IT-AT	82 238 866
<b>53</b>	Interreg V-A Slovenia-Hungary	SI-HU	14 795 015
<b>54</b>	Interreg V-A Slovenia-Austria	SI-AT	47 988 355
<b>55</b>	Interreg V-A Greece-Cyprus	EL-CY	45 961 551
<b>56</b>	Interreg V-A Germany-Denmark	DE-DK	89 634 975
<b>57</b>	Interreg V-A Ireland-United Kingdom (PEACE)	IE-UK	229 169 320
<b>58</b>	Interreg V-A France (Guadeloupe-Martinique-Organisation des Etas de la Caraibe orientale	FR	41 129 656
<b>59</b>	Interreg V-A France (Réunion-Pays de la Commission de l'Océan Indien	FR	41 384 802
<b>60</b>	Interreg V-A France/Guiana-Brazil-Suriname (Amazonie)	FR	14 075 183
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>6 597 822 373</b>

## Interreg V B: transnational cooperation

Transnational cooperation, known as Interreg B, involves regions from several countries of the EU forming bigger areas. It aims to promote better cooperation and regional development within the European Union by a joint approach to tackle common issues. Interreg B supports a wide range of project investment related to innovation, environment, accessibility, telecommunications, urban development etc. The transnational programmes add an important extra European dimension to regional development, developed from analysis at a European level, leading to agreed priorities and a coordinated strategic response.

This allows meaningful work between regions from several EU Member States on matters such as communication corridors, flood management, international business, research linkages and the development of more viable and sustainable markets. Themes covered include:

- innovation, especially networks of universities, research institutions, SMEs;
- environment, especially water resources, rivers, lakes, sea;
- accessibility, including telecommunications, and in particular the completion of networks;
- sustainable urban development, especially polycentric development.

Interreg V B covers 15 cooperation programmes in larger areas of cooperation such as the Baltic Sea, Danube, Alpine and Mediterranean regions. The EU funding opportunities available in the period 2014-2020 for Interreg B amounts to EUR 2.1 billion euro.

## List of transnational cooperation programmes

The following is the list of transnational cooperation programmes with indication of the global amount of the total European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) support for each transnational cooperation programme.

No	Name of the programme	Member States	Non-Member States	Global ERDF contribution in euro
1	Interreg V-B Adriatic-Ionian	Greece-Croatia-Italy-Slovenia	Albania-Bosnia-Herzegovina-Montenegro-Serbia	83 467 729
2	Interreg V-B Alpine Space	Germany-France-Italy-Austria-Slovenia	Switzerland-Liechtenstein	116 635 466
3	Interreg V-B Atlantic Area	Spain-France-Italy-Austria-Slovenia	N/A	140 013 194
4	Interreg V-B Baltic Sea	Denmark-Germany-Estonia-Latvia-Lithuania-Poland-Finland-Sweden	Belarus-Norway-Russia	263 830 658
5	Interreg V-B Caribbean Area	France	Several Third Countries and overseas countries or territories	23 163 249
6	Interreg V-B Central Europe	Czech republic-Germany-Italy-Croatia-Hungary-Austria-Poland-Slovenia-Slovakia	N/A	246 581 112
7	Interreg V-B Danube	Austria-Bulgaria-Czech Republic-Germany-Croatia-Hungary-Romania-Slovenia-Slovakia	Bosnia-Herzegovina-Montenegro-Serbia-Moldova-Ukraine	202 095 405
8	Interreg V-B Indian Ocean	France	Several Third Countries and overseas countries or territories	21 772 585
<b>CBC</b>	Interreg V-B MAC (Madeira-Acores-Canarias)	Spain-Portugal	Mauritania-Cape Verde-Senegal	43 986 995
9	Interreg V-B Mediterranean	Greece-Spain-France-Croatia-Italy-Cyprus-Malta-Portugal-Slovenia-United Kingdom	Albania- Bosnia-Herzegovina-Montenegro	224 322 525
10	Interreg V-B Northern Periphery and Arctic	Ireland-Finland-Sweden-United Kingdom	Several Third Countries and other territories	50 209 899
11	Interreg V-B North Sea	Belgium-Denmark-Germany-The Netherlands-Sweden-United Kingdom	Norway	167 253 971
12	Interreg V-B North-West Europe	Belgium-Germany-France-Ireland-Luxembourg-The	Switzerland	396 134 342

		Netherlands-United Kingdom		
<b>13</b>	Interreg V-B Amazonia	France	Brazil-Suriname-Guyana	4 823 866
<b>14</b>	Interreg V-B South-West Europe	Spain-France-Portugal-United Kingdom	Andorra	106 810 523
<b>15</b>	Interreg V-B Balkan Mediterrenean	Bulgaria-Greece-Cyprus	Albania-Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	28 330 108
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>2 119 431 627</b>

## Interreg V C: Interregional cooperation

Strand C 2014-2020 covers four interregional cooperation programmes: Interreg EUROPE, INTERACT, URBACT and ESPON. It covers all 28 EU Member States of the EU. The EU provides around 500 million euro from the ERDF for Interreg VC.

- **Interreg Europe** cooperation programme is a policy-learning programme for European public authorities promoting the exchange of experience and the transfer of good practices between actors at all levels in Europe. It covers all 28 EU Member States of the EU, Norway and Switzerland. The EU provides around 359 million euro from the ERDF for Interreg.
- **Interact III** is the European programme created especially for assisting European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programmes. Interact helps programme's managing authorities, audit authorities and administrators of cooperation programmes, first level controllers to understand EU rules defined for 2014-2020 in order to improve the management of these programmes. The Interact team offers training, tools and encourages networking within the territorial cooperation community and beyond. It covers the 28 EU Member States, Norway, Switzerland. The EU provides around 39 million euro from the ERDF
- **Espon 2020** cooperation programme produces a pan-European research by providing scientific information to public authorities and actors at all levels through territorial research and analysis. ESPON's 2020 overarching objective is to support the development of regions in line with the EU Cohesion Policy as well as national development policies making sure the cities and regions across Europe are well informed. It covers the 28 EU Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. The EU provides around 41 million euro from the ERDF.
- **Urban III** 2014-2020 provides a framework of network between local and regional bodies facing similar urban challenges. In order to find common solutions for a sustainable and integrated urban development in Europe, URBAN III supports cities by exchanging information and identifying good practice. It covers the 28 EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland. The EU provides around 96.3 million euro from the ERDF.

### List of interregional cooperation programmes

The following is the list of interregional cooperation programmes with indication of the global amount of the total European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) support for each interregional cooperation programme.

No	Name of the programme	Member States	Non-Member States	Global ERDF contribution in euro
<b>1</b>	Interreg V-B Interreg Europe	All Member States	Switzerland-Norway	359 326 320
<b>2</b>	Interreg V-B Interact	All Member States	Switzerland-Norway	39 392 587
<b>3</b>	Interreg V-B Urbact	All Member States	Switzerland-Norway	74 301 909
<b>4</b>	Interreg V-B Espon	All Member States	Switzerland-Norway-Iceland-Liechtenstein	41 377 019
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>514 397 835</b>



## **Regional development cooperation programmes outside the EU**

There are also a number of instruments available to support regional development along the EU's external borders with countries, which are either candidates for EU membership or potential candidates, and also with so-called third countries (i.e. non-EU members: Iceland, Norway, Switzerland).

Interreg co-finances EUR 50 billion of regional development cooperation for:

- 12 Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) cross-border collaboration programmes. EU allocation: EUR 11.7 billion, of which 242 million is earmarked for cross-border cooperation.
- 16 European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) cross-border collaboration programmes. EU allocation: EUR 15.4 billion, of which 634 million is earmarked for cross-border cooperation.

### ***Who can apply for regional funding and when?***

Organisations that can benefit from regional funding include public bodies, some private sector organisations (especially small businesses), universities, associations, NGOs and voluntary organisations. Foreign firms with a base in the region covered by the relevant Operational Programme can also apply, provided they meet European public procurement rules.

Contact your managing authority for more information on who can apply in your region.

The first step to apply is to check the Regional Operational Programmes available in your country and check if your project idea meets the selection criteria and investment priorities. Follow the application procedures of the relevant Managing Authorities who can advise project proposers on each stage of the project application.

Project promoters in countries that are candidates or potential candidates for EU membership should contact the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance ([IPA](#)).

Further information are available at the following web site:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/thefunds/access/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/thefunds/access/index_en.cfm)

## Who can help me?

European Union has a network of information Centre to provide citizens with information about its activities. The following is a directory of links of these information Points:



### List of Contact Points

*The following are EU Official information Points:*

- ✚ The Europe Direct information relays, with hundreds of information points all over Europe  
[http://europa.eu/europedirect/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/europedirect/index_en.htm)
- ✚ The Managing Authority in your Country which can give you advice, through each stage of the project application  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/manage/authority/authority\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/manage/authority/authority_en.cfm)
- ✚ Documentation centres which help universities and research institutes to promote and develop education and research on European integration and on other issues related to education and training. Anyone can visit a centre to consult official EU publications.  
[http://europa.eu/europedirect/meet\\_us/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/europedirect/meet_us/index_en.htm)
- ✚ Expert speakers (Team Europe) (who are experts who can lead presentations, workshops or debates at trade fairs and conferences or within organisations by invitation (schools, NGOs, businesses, etc.).  
[http://europa.eu/europedirect/meet\\_us/directory/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/europedirect/meet_us/directory/index_en.htm)



## Where to get information on cohesion policy 2014-2020

- ✚ European structural and Investment Funds  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/funding/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/)
- ✚ European Social Fund 2014-2020  
<http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=62&langId=en>
- ✚ Cross border programmes list  
[http://www.interact-eu.net/etc/etc\\_2007\\_13/4/14950](http://www.interact-eu.net/etc/etc_2007_13/4/14950)
- ✚ Interact Secretariat  
[http://www.interact-eu.net/about\\_us/about\\_interact/22/2911](http://www.interact-eu.net/about_us/about_interact/22/2911)
- ✚ Inforegio Territorial Cooperation web site  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/cooperation/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/)
- ✚ DG Agriculture and Rural Development  
[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/financial-instruments/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/financial-instruments/index_en.htm)
- ✚ DG Fisheries  
[http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/index_en.htm)

## **The EU Macro-Regional Strategies**

The EU 'Macroregional strategies' address common challenges faced by a defined geographical area relating to Member States and third countries located in the same geographical area which thereby benefit from strengthened cooperation contributing to achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion. Macroregional strategies are integrated framework endorsed by the European Council, which may be supported by the European Structural and Investment Funds and by other EU Funds and programmes as they do not come with extra EU financing. They can but will mobilise and bring together existing EU and national funding instruments.

## **The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)**

The EUSBSR is the first comprehensive EU strategy to target a 'macro-region'. Approved by the European Council in 2009, provides an integrated framework to find common solutions for the specific challenges of the region. Eight countries (Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland) have joined forces to work together to tackle the challenges.

It includes a number of policy areas/horizontal actions to save the sea, connect the region and increase prosperity – each accompanied by concrete flagships as well as by clearly identified targets and indicators. The Strategy helps to mobilise all relevant EU funding and policies and coordinate the actions of the European Union, EU countries, regions, pan-Baltic organisations, financing institutions and non-governmental bodies to promote a more balanced development of the Baltic Sea Region.

Achievements so far include:

- support for new projects, including cooperation between farmers to reduce eutrophication and improved planning for transport infrastructure;
- greater involvement of Russian partners in areas like environmental protection, water quality and innovation;
- improved cooperation between regions and other partners, including the private sector.

Although the Strategy does not come with extra EU financing, a considerable amount of funding is already available to the region through EU regional policy, other EU programmes and financial instruments, and various international financial institutions.

## **The EU Strategy for the Danube Region**

A strategy to boost the development of the Danube Region was proposed by the European Commission on 8 December 2010 (Commission Communication - EU Strategy for the Danube Region). Member States endorsed the EU Strategy for the Danube Region at the General Affairs Council on 13 April 2011 (Council Conclusions).

The Danube region covers parts of nine EU countries (Germany, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia) and five non-EU countries (Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Ukraine and Moldova).

The region is facing several challenges:

- environmental threats (water pollution, floods, climate change)
- untapped shipping potential and lack of road and rail transport connections

- insufficient energy connections
- uneven socio-economic development
- uncoordinated education, research and innovation systems
- shortcomings in safety and security

Better coordination and cooperation between the countries and regions is thus needed to address these challenges.

The EU has identified 11 priority areas, which will focus on improving:

- transport connections;
- energy connections;
- environment;
- socio-economic development;
- security.

The Strategy does not come with extra EU finance but it is supported from the resources already available according to an integrated approach. Countries may also make use of the funding they receive through EU cohesion policy, other EU programmes and financial instruments, and various international financial institutions.

## **The EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)**

The EU Strategy for the Alpine Region involves seven countries: Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia and Switzerland. It concerns more than 70 million people living in the 48 regions of the seven countries involved, of which 5 are EU Member States (Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia) and 2 are non-EU countries (Liechtenstein and Switzerland).

The Alpine Region is among the most dynamic, innovative and competitive areas in Europe with unique geographical and natural features. The Region, however, faces several challenges, which require a joint response:

- demographic trends characterised by ageing, low population density in the mountain areas and new migration models;
- high vulnerability to climate change and its foreseeable effects on the environment, biodiversity and the living conditions of its inhabitants;
- challenge in managing and meeting energy demand;
- a high degree of seasonality, especially in some touristic areas;
- significant disparities between the different areas in the Region, especially between mountainous areas and the Alpine foreland.

The strategy aims thus at creating opportunities considering that the Alps are one of the most famous and most intensely used mountain regions of the world, a key destination for tourists and are crossed or bordered by trade and transit routes of strategic importance.

Many of the regions in the Alps are among the most developed in the world with competitive, market-oriented and specialised economies, a high quality of life and strong innovation levels, the Region is also home to global key players and SMEs in the field of research and innovation, offering a strong potential for further development;

In addition, the Alps are the second largest biodiversity reservoir in Europe after the Mediterranean Sea.

Better cooperation and coordination between the countries and regions concerned is thus needed to address shared challenges and better exploit opportunities. Therefore, the European Council of 19-20 December 2013 invited the Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and regions involved, to draw up an EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) by mid-2015.

As is the case for the other macro-regional strategies the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), it aims at providing the involved countries with a coordinated response to issues for which joint action is necessary. This Strategy, therefore, will seek to unlock the potential of the Alpine Region, by encouraging participants to overcome barriers and think more strategically about the existing challenges and opportunities.

The Strategy covers three policy areas:

- economic growth and innovation;
- mobility and connectivity;
- environment and energy.

Moreover, since the existing cooperation, frameworks in the Region are primarily sector-based or do not match the geographical scope of the Strategy, a crosscutting policy area has also been identified to address governance, including institutional capacity.

Following the recommendations from the 2014 report concerning the benefit of macro-regional strategies, and taking into account the outcomes of previous works in the Region oriented towards EUSALP, the Commission has identified the following objectives:

- fair access to job opportunities by building on the high competitiveness of the Region;
- sustainable internal and external accessibility;
- a more inclusive environmental framework and renewable and reliable energy solutions for the future.

In addition, there will be a crosscutting objective aiming to build:

- a sound macro-regional governance model for the Region, to improve cooperation and the coordination of action

All macro-regional stakeholders can benefit from the Strategy, including: local, regional and national administrations, universities, research clusters, SMEs, civil society organisations and associations, private partners, international investors, and of course, citizens.

As the Strategy does not come with extra EU financing, the EUSALP will mobilise and bring together existing EU and national funding instruments.

In particular, relevant country-specific, cross-border and transnational programmes from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) for 2014-2020 will provide significant financial resources and a wide range of tools and technical options. The Alpine Space "Interreg" Programme will be an important instrument for the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region in terms of alignment of priorities and funding. In addition, Interreg's Priority Axis 4 ('Well-Governed Alpine Space') is designed specifically to support EUSALP governance.

Other EU Funds and programmes can be used such as Horizon 2020, the COSME programme, the Connecting Europe Facility, and the LIFE programme. In addition, the European Fund for Strategic Investments, the European Investment Bank and other international financial institutions will also contribute. Finally, national and regional budgetary resources will be mobilised, in particular in the non-EU countries covered by the Strategy, as they do not receive EU funding.

## **The EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)**

The Commission adopted on 17 June 2014 a Communication on the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian region, accompanied by an Action Plan. The Strategy incorporates the Maritime Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Seas, adopted by the Commission on 30 November 2012.

The Strategy aims at revitalizing the Adriatic and Ionian Region. It will enhance its economic development through four priorities:

1. seize the opportunities offered by the "Blue Growth", i.e. by the assets of this large maritime area;
2. connect the Region and facilitate exchanges by land and by sea;
3. protect the biodiversity and safeguard the natural areas of great values;
4. promote sustainable tourism.

The Strategy aims at helping its 70 million residents to reap the benefit of closer cooperation in areas like promoting the maritime economy, preserving the marine environment, completing transport and energy links and boosting sustainable tourism.

The Strategy will also provide a valuable opportunity for would-be members and candidates of the EU to work alongside EU members, in particular contributing to the integration of the Western Balkans into the European Union.

This strategy has a large proportion of non-EU countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia) cooperating with EU members (Croatia, Greece, Italy, and Slovenia). The Strategy mainly revolves around the opportunities of the maritime economy - 'blue growth', land-sea transport, energy connectivity, protecting the environment and sustainable tourism – sectors that are bound to play a crucial role in creating jobs and boosting economic growth in the region.

A pair of countries – one EU Member State and one non-EU country - coordinate the development of each element of the Action Plan:

- Greece and Montenegro on "Blue Growth";
- Italy and Serbia on "Connecting the Region" (transport and energy networks);
- Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina on "Environmental Quality";
- Croatia and Albania on "Sustainable Tourism".

In addition, capacity building as well as research, innovation and small and medium size business are crosscutting aspects. Climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as disaster risk management are horizontal principles relevant to all four pillars.

The EUSAIR Strategy does not come with extra EU funding, but it should mobilise and align existing EU and national financing as well as attracting private investments. In particular, the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) as well as the Instrument for Pre-accession (IPA) can contribute to the implementation of the Strategy.



### Where to get information on EU Macro-Regional Strategies

- ✚ EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)  
<http://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/>
- ✚ EU Strategy for the Danube Region  
[www.danube-region.eu](http://www.danube-region.eu)
- ✚ Financial opportunities for EU Strategy for the Danube Region  
[www.danube-region.eu/pages/funding-opportunities](http://www.danube-region.eu/pages/funding-opportunities)
- ✚ EU Strategy for the Alpine Region  
<http://www.alpine-region.eu/>
- ✚ EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region  
[www.adriatic-ionian.eu](http://www.adriatic-ionian.eu)
- ✚ Inforegion website devoted to the EU Macro-Regional Strategies  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/cooperation/macro-regional-strategies/danube/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/macro-regional-strategies/danube/)

## **The direct funding**

The Community Programmes are a series of integrated measures accepted by the European Commission aiming to strengthen the co-operation among the Member States regarding Community policies for a period of time. The EU general budget funds the Community Programmes. All Acceding and Candidate countries have the opportunity to participate in the programmes, although, as a main condition of participation, they have to pay an annual fee to the budget.

Community Programmes are tied to almost every Community policy. The Community decides on the type of programmes, their budgets and their durations. Any legal entity (sometimes individuals, in a very limited number of cases, too) can submit a project proposal. The submission, evaluation and settlement of the accounts along with the full administration belongs to the Administration of the Directorate Generals (DGs) of the European Commission.

Consortium, with the participation of minimum two or more organisations from the EU Member States (specified in the Calls for Proposals), can submit project proposals. The applicants are directly in contact with European Commission officers, from the submission until the closure of the project. However, each participating country opens a national programme office or agency known as National Contact Point (either within a competent Ministry or within a separate organisation) whose task is the collection of information and mediation in order to assist the national applicants. In some cases, the national programme coordinators have higher responsibility and competence.

European Commission manage directly these funds which, are also called "community action programs" and are granted by the European Commission to project at local, national or regional level without any intermediary. European Commission launches, for each of these programs, calls for proposals.

Given that the funding is made available at European level, the project needs to have a European dimension – an explicit European purpose that gives the project a European added value. However, how the European dimension is specified varies between the different programmes. In the research programme, for example, a key criterion for funding is to provide Europe with research excellence. Often, the European Commission also requires that the results of the project have relevance even outside the countries included in the project.

European Commission allocates the funds through grants awarded on the basis of calls for proposals, in which, different actors compete for the support of the EU. There are two types of grants:

- action grants for projects with a limited lifetime during which proposed specific activities are implemented;
- operating grants providing financial support for the regular work and activities of an organisation.

Furthermore, EU institutions award public contracts through calls for tenders to buy services, goods or works that ensure the operations of the EU institutions and their programmes. Eventually, several other types of financing by EU funds exists, such as direct subsidies or indirect funding through intermediary bodies in the form of loans, risk capital, seed funding, subsidies, etc.

EU financing can cover from the 50% up to 100% (in very limited cases) of the total cost of a project. The rest often comes from national funds, private sponsors or even own resources, such as support staff and office resources. This support needs to be documented. The key providers of information on EU programmes in the different Member States are the National Contact Points (NCN) of each programme, the Representation Offices of the European Commission and the different EU information networks. NCNs, in particular, also often organise training courses and seminars on how to apply and how to manage projects. They often provide potential applicants with programme user-guides in the national languages. The European Commission also distributes such information. Potential applicants can also use the national contact points and the regional EU offices in Brussels for information and support on the application process.



The direct funding can be divided in two main areas:

- **the European programmes** which allow the Member States to cooperate together, even if most of them are also open to the participation of other countries like the EFTA countries (Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein) the candidate countries, Switzerland and other third countries;
- **the external assistance programmes** which represent the legal framework of the EU's external assistance to Neighbour, Third and Developing Countries.

### **What is a project?**

An EU project can take many forms. Typically, a project is carried out by consortia with participants from different countries that aim at increasing mobility, developing new knowledge, or strengthening European dimensions. The size, scope and internal organisation of projects can vary from field to field and from topic to topic. Increasingly, consortia are forming larger EU project networks. Here, a number of organisations combine their activities in a given field. Implementation of these activities usually requires the networks to formally commit their resources and activities in the network. An EU project can also be set up to coordinate or support activities and policies (networking, exchanges, transnational access to infrastructures, studies, conferences, etc.).

Individual projects are also possible. Here, a project is set up to support other projects carried out by individual national or transnational teams. Projects can also be set up to support the training of network and agency staff.

## **How do I know that my project is eligible for EU funding?**

A European project to be successful has to include some basic elements, which justify a request for funding to the EU. In addition, to be successful a project has to "survive" to the European funding. The following check-list provides you with some useful tips to check the eligibility of your project proposal.



*When preparing a project proposal ask yourself if your project respond to the following criteria:*

### **Transnationality**

- ✚ Does the project encourage geographic mobility?
- ✚ Does it involve more than 2/3 EU partners?
- ✚ As single initiatives are not considered, is the project including a big and strong partnership?

### **Innovation**

- ✚ In what way is the project innovative?
- ✚ Does it create new methods and processes?
- ✚ Does it define new objectives?
- ✚ Does it modify already existing systems?
- ✚ Does it introduce new approaches?

### **European Added Value**

- ✚ The objectives and the consequences of the actions can be better reached at European level rather than at national or local level?

### **Subsidiarity**

- ✚ Is EU intervening because Local Governments, the Regions and the State are not able to solve that particular problem?

### **Sustainability**

- ✚ Is the benefits flow, which the project is bringing about, going to develop and last in the long-run?

### **Community interest**

- ✚ Does the project responds to the objectives of the European Union in that specific field?
- ✚ Does our project meet the goals of the Europe 2020 Strategy?

### **Visibility and transparency**

- ✚ Are you guaranteeing to the project enough visibility so that also the general public is aware of what you are doing?
- ✚ Are you making available all the information regarding the project\_accessible to the general public?

## **When to apply?**

After the EU has decided to launch a programme, call for proposals are then published on the EU Official Journal or on the web site of the General Directorate managing the single programmes. In this programming period it is not mandatory any more to publish the call for proposals on the EU Official journals, so we suggest to check regularly the web site of the different Directorates Generals (DG) of the European Commission. Often, other publication channels spread the information as well. Usually the call is launched at specific information meetings, organised by the European Commission in Brussels or by the National Contact Points in the different countries. These meetings are highly valuable for focusing on what the Commission is looking for.

Most of the calls for proposals related to the different programmes are published in the EU Official Journal (OJ): <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/oj/direct-access.html>

The EUOJ publishes all official EU information in all the official languages of the EU, and also publishes the EEA Supplement.

The Europa website ([http://europa.eu/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/index_en.htm)) gives the best overview of open calls. The information is organised by the directorate-general responsible for the programme in question. Here, the objective of the call, the criteria for funding and the formal application requirements are found. The call is usually open from 4 to 12 weeks.

However, sometimes the call is left "open", which means that one can apply for funding continuously (with fixed selection dates). The application is sent directly to the European Commission or the executive agencies in Brussels or located in other countries. For some of the programmes, but, National Agencies manage the entire application process.



### **Remember:**

- ✚ During the course of the year, one or more competitions can be announced giving potential applicants the opportunity to submit a project proposal. Prior to the calls coming out, there is normally a draft of the call in circulation. Usually this information can be gained from various sources such as the National Contact Point in your country.
- ✚ To prepare your project proposal you do not need to wait for the call for proposals publication. The preparation of the project proposal is a difficult step, so once you have identified the funding line most suitable for your project it is better that you start as soon as possible to work at it.

## **What do I need to apply?**

In order to start preparing a project proposal you need to have some basic documents on your desk, which can be easily downloaded from the internet.



### **Checklist for applying:**

*In order to apply you need to have on your desk the following documents:*

**The Regulation containing the Decision of Programme** adoption available at:

- ✚ EU Official Journal series L

**Call for proposals text** available at:

- ✚ EU Official Journal series C
- ✚ DG web site

**Guide for proposers** available at:

- ✚ DG and Executive Agencies web site

**Call for proposal Form** available at:

- ✚ DG and Executive Agencies web site

**Further documentation when requested** available at:

- ✚ DG and Executive Agencies web site

## How to apply?

Application forms are available online, through both the websites of the national contact point or the different Directorate General of EU Commission. Before applying for EU funds, it is important to have a clear idea of what the project aims to accomplish and ensure that all partners in the project are fully aware and supportive. The project idea needs to be checked against the programme objective and all the formal call criteria. The European added value should be explicit at a very early stage of the process and should include a clear objective for the distribution of the project results after the project is concluded. Making a budget for the project is time-consuming, as it needs to be realistic and coherent even at an early stage.



### Remember:

*Writing an application includes the following basic elements:*

- ✚ Define clearly **the idea, objectives and target group**. So ask yourself:
  - What is unique in this project?
  - What is the main innovation compared to what is already available?
  - What does the project want to do, for whom, how and when does it want to do it?
  - Which needs does the project respond to?
- ✚ Establish a **clear target hierarchy** with quantity measures of resources and the time needed to carry out the project.
- ✚ What **methods and techniques** will the project use to obtain its objective? In larger projects, it is important to use a work package structure to describe the different stages of the project. In all proposals, it is important to be clear about milestones and objectives, including timelines, throughout the project.
- ✚ The application usually requires to describe each **project partner** in detail, how each partner contributes to the project objective and how the partners cooperate. Here again, the European added value should be emphasised.
- ✚ **Information, dissemination, and exploitation of project results** is an integral part of an application.
  - How will the project inform, to whom and when?
- ✚ **Realistic budgeting** is an essential part of any successful EU project.

These may be used to cover the entire EU financial contribution for a funding scheme or more than one may be combined. For most programmes, reimbursement of eligible costs is the preferred method. However, lump sums and flat rate financing are used more extensively in the programmes of the current programming period.

When a project starts, its coordinator usually reports the costs and the results to the Commission, on an annual or biannual basis. Based on this, the Commission conducts regular reviews of the project, to ensure that it is following its objectives and the formal criteria for funding. It is also crucial to submit the application on time. Often, excellent applications are considered ineligible due to avoidable mistakes or late arrival.



**Remember:**

- ✚ Each submission is different. Either it can be in a single stage submission or you may be required to submit an initial Registration of Interest, which will be a summary of your potential project. If you are successful at this stage, you will be required to submit your full proposal.
- ✚ Most submissions are now made on-line. You are encouraged to submit your draft proposal then re-submit right up to the deadline.

## How to find partners?

Most EU projects require at least two or three partners in different countries, even if European Commission prefers wider partnerships. The number of partners depends on which funding line we are going to use and usually it is indicated in the call for proposals. In some very limited and exceptional cases, like in the case of some measures funded by Life programme or Europe for Citizens programme, it's not mandatory to create an international partnership.



### Remember:

A well balanced geographically partnership, which includes partners from the north to south, and from east to west, increases the possibility of a project success.

Finding a good project consortium is a crucial part of the application process. Sourcing partners from existing networks, or from already completed or ongoing projects, often makes partner search quicker and cooperation easier. Through databases available on Commission websites, applicants can find lists of previous projects and overviews of partners available. The National Contact Points in the different countries can also support this partner search. It is important to make sure that all partners have a genuine interest in the project, as they often work together for several years.

The project consortium is often formalised through an agreement. It governs the internal organisation of the consortium, the distribution of funds, dissemination and use of project results, including intellectual property right arrangements, and settlement of internal disputes. Successful projects usually consist of some experienced and some new partners.

Within the project, there is the project coordinator, which usually comes from an organisation, body or enterprise with previous EU project experience. He is the only one who is legally and financially responsible for the project implementation towards the Commission as he:

- *manages the financial operations*: it receives the financial contribution from the Commission and distributes it to the single associated partners
- *provides reports on the implementation stage*: of the project in which the data related to the partners are included
- *updates the accountability books* and keeps the documentation related to all expenses and incomes of the project, so as requested by the Commission.

The other partners collaborate with the project coordinator in one or more project stages. Their contribution aims at helping the consortium in achieving one or more objectives of the project.

The European Commission is helpful and responsive to questions, which may arise ahead of the application deadline. The Commission often sets up help desks to answer questions on the applications, and support the partner search during the period the call is open.



## Partner Search Tools:

*The following are some Partner Search tools, which can facilitate project proposers to create partnerships:*

### **Ideal-Ist**

It addresses ICT companies and research organisations worldwide wishing to find project partners for a participation in Research and Innovation projects in a wide range of fields.

<http://www.ideal-ist.eu/partner-search/pssearch>

### **ManagEnergy**

It allows you to look for Partners for Energy project proposals or other activities. When choosing an item in the side bar menu you can also create or update your profile or add your project idea.

[http://www.managenergy.net/partner\\_search](http://www.managenergy.net/partner_search)

### **"Fit for Health"**

It is a network of experts for the successful participation of research centres, universities and innovative SMEs in EU-funded "HEALTH" research projects.

<http://www.fitforhealth.eu/>

### **Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme Partner Search facility**

It is a service provided by the AAL (Ambient Assisted Living) Joint Programme offering a tool for finding partners or being found by partners for AAL projects

<http://ps.aal-europe.eu/>

### **Cordis Partners Search service**

Partner Search database for European Research and Development Programmes

<https://cordis.europa.eu/partners/web/guest>

### **South East Europe Programme Partner Search**

The Partner Search section of the South East Europe Programme intends to give potential applicants the opportunity to publish a summary of their project idea on the SEE Programme's official website with the aim of finding new partners.

<http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/projects/partnersearch/>

### **Partner search for Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing in HORIZON 2020**

This web service is strictly focused on the open calls for proposals of the key enabling technologies Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing of HORIZON 2020, related actions like FET open, ERA-NETs like SIINN and M-ERA.NET and inducement prize (Horizon Prize on materials for clean air).

<https://www.nmp-partnersearch.eu/index.php>

### **Research and Innovation Partner Search**

EU Commission partner Search for Horizon, COSME, Health and Consumer Programme

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/ftags/international\\_cooperation.html#c.topics=flags/s/IntlCoop/1/1&+callStat us/asc](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/ftags/international_cooperation.html#c.topics=flags/s/IntlCoop/1/1&+callStat us/asc)



Where to get information on the European Union direct funding

#### EU Information Points:

- + Directorates General of the European Commission  
[http://ec.europa.eu/about/ds\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/about/ds_en.htm)
- + Official EU information Points - "Europe Direct"  
[http://europa.eu/europedirect/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/europedirect/index_en.htm)
- + Enterprise Europe Network  
<http://een.ec.europa.eu/>
- + European Documentation Centres  
[http://europa.eu/europedirect/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/europedirect/index_en.htm)
- + Research and Innovation Participant Portal  
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>
- + The European Union representation offices in the 27 Member States  
[http://ec.europa.eu/represent\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/represent_en.htm)
- + The EU Delegation offices in "Third Countries"  
[http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/web\\_en.htm](http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/web_en.htm)

## Further Reading

#### Some useful publications:

- + Doing business with the European Commission - Tips for potential contractors  
[http://ec.europa.eu/budget/library/biblio/publications/business/doing\\_business\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/library/biblio/publications/business/doing_business_en.pdf)
- + A beginner's guide to EU Funding published by DG Budget of the DG Budget of the European Commission  
[http://ec.europa.eu/budget/funding/index\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/funding/index_en)
- + H2020 online manual  
<https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/>
- + New Guide to get EU funding by DG Budget  
[http://ec.europa.eu/budget/news/article\\_en.cfm?id=201503051134](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/news/article_en.cfm?id=201503051134)
- + Guide on EU funding for the tourism sector  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item\\_id=7847&lang=it](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=7847&lang=it)

## The direct funding tools for 2014-2020

At the beginning of 2014 the Union adopted a new generation of programmes for the financial programming period 2014-2020. The European Union (EU) allocated considerable financial resources to fund projects and actions related to EU policies and their implementation. This money is used for investments in a broad spectrum of areas, such as sustainable economic development, decent work, research & innovation, education, culture, health and environmental protection. The final goal is to boost jobs and growth and create a better quality of life in Europe.

The European Commission's budget for 2014-2020 is focused on priority funding at the EU level that provides true added value. For instance, a Connecting Europe Facility that funds cross-border projects in energy, transport and information technology to strengthen the backbone of EU internal market; significantly more money for Research and Innovation to invest in competitiveness; and more funds for Europe's youth – these are just some of the new elements in the new budget. At the same time, this innovative EU budget remains focused.

This guide presents briefly the Programmes of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for the period 2014-2020, which were adopted at the end of 2013, beginning of 2014, and which are centrally managed by the European Commission and of interest for PEP.

It is important to consider that the MFF 2014-20 will be reviewed by the Commission in 2016 taking full account of the economic situation at the time as well as the latest macroeconomic projections. ([http://ec.europa.eu/budget/mff/introduction/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/mff/introduction/index_en.cfm))

These new programmes are simplified and more conditionality has been put on how funds will be spent.

The 2014-2020 programming period aims at meeting the objective of simplicity, introducing the following news:

- decrease in the number of separate programs through a grouping of the 2007-2013 programmes: Erasmus for All programme for example includes all branches of the 2007-2013 Lifelong Learning Programme (Erasmus, Comenius, Leonardo, Grundtvig ...) and the Youth in Action programme; the 2007-2013 Culture and Media programmes were grouped together in the 2014-2020 Creative Europe programme. Finally, Horizon 2020 is the big new 2014-2020 programme dedicated to research and innovation (former FP7);
- simplification of procedures and the application of common principles for funding;
- decentralization of the management of funds, with an increased role given to executive agencies.

The main Programmes of the 2014-2020 period which are also presented in the guide are Horizon with a budget of €77,03 billion, Connecting Europe Facility with €21,94 billion and Erasmus+ with €14,8 billion (all amounts are in current prices). The guide also includes programmes covering other important policies of the EU (i.e. LIFE programme, COSME, and the Health programme).

The **Connecting Europe Facility instrument** aims to boost the pan European value of infrastructure projects. It includes a preliminary list of transport, energy and ICT projects that bring more interconnectivity across Europe. These growth-enhancing connections will provide better access to the internal market and terminate the isolation of certain economic "islands". The Connecting Europe Facility offers opportunities for using innovative financing tools to speed up and secure greater investment than can be achieved only through public funding. The Commission is also promoting the use of EU project bonds to bring forward the realisation of these important projects.

Investment in research and innovation has also been significantly increased. "**Horizon 2020**" is expected to boost Europe's global competitiveness and help create the jobs and ideas of tomorrow.

A **safer Europe** is also one of the goals of this programming period. Building a safer Europe means improving our environment and protecting our climate. The Commission proposes to mainstream these across the board. The Commission intends to increase the proportion to at least 20% for climate related spending, with contributions from different policy fields subject to impact assessment evidence.

A **stronger Europe in the world** is also granted a budget to help make Europe count in the world through an increased external relations budget. Shifting alliances and emerging new powers mean that Europe must do more to make its voice count. € 15.58 billion was allocated to the Neighbourhood Policy to promote democracy and prosperity around Europe. EU also continues delivering on its commitments to help the poorest in the world. The Development and Cooperation Instrument (DCI) with a budget of €19.56 billion is focused on poverty eradication and to maintain EU pledge to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The new multi-annual EU budget is more transparent, fairer resources have reduced and simplified Member States' contributions.

For more information on the Multiannual Financial Framework, please visit the following website:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/budget/mff/programmes/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/mff/programmes/index_en.cfm)

## EU direct funding in the Environment and Energy sector 2014-2020

### *LIFE Programme for the Environment and Climate Action*

LIFE+ Programme of the past programming period 2007-2013 continues in the current programming period under the name of Life Programme.

The design of the new LIFE Programme has a better focus on priorities linked to the Europe 2020 Strategy.

The **main news** regards:

- creation of a separate sub-programme for Climate Action;
- clearer definition of priority areas for the Programme with multi-annual work programmes adopted in consultation with the Member States;
- promotion of a new type of projects - "Integrated projects" – aiming at implementing on a large territorial scale environmental or climate strategies or action plans, and mobilising other EU, national and private funds. These focus primarily on the nature, water, waste, air, and climate change mitigation and adaptation sectors.

The general objective of LIFE is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental and climate policy and legislation by co-financing projects with European added value. It aims to:

- contribute to the shift towards a resource efficient, low-carbon and climate resilient economy, to the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment and to halting and reversing biodiversity loss;
- improve the development, implementation and enforcement of Union environmental and climate policy and legislation, and to catalyse and promote integration and mainstreaming of environmental and climate objectives into other Union policies and public and private sector practice, including by increasing their capacity;
- support better environmental and climate governance at all levels.

Life has *two sub-programmes*:

1. Environment
2. Climate Action.

The programme funds the following types of projects:

- *traditional projects*: best practice, innovation and demonstration projects, as well as dissemination/information projects and governance projects;
- *integrated projects*: projects aiming at the implementation on a large territorial scale plans and strategies required by EU legislation in the areas of nature, water, waste, air, climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- *preparatory projects*: projects identified by the Commission to support specific needs for the implementation and development of EU environmental or climate policy and legislation;
- *capacity building projects*: financial support to the activities required to build the capacity of Member States with a view to enabling their more effective participation in LIFE.

Life does not finance big infrastructure projects but it may support investment in "*Green Infrastructure*" through grants and loans/bank guarantees. Green infrastructure (GI) refers to a network of high quality natural and semi-natural areas, which is designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem

services from the protection of biodiversity to the quality of water. These services also include recreational and touristic activities.

Green infrastructure is made of different things, from hedgerows, fish ladders or motorway overpass for bears to measures concerning entire ecosystems such as free-flowing rivers. As some ecosystems extend beyond national boundaries, there may be EU-level GI projects.

The **Sub-Programme “Environment”** supported actions are:

#### **Environment and Resource Efficiency**

- To develop, test and demonstrate policy or management approaches, best practices, and solutions to environmental challenges, suitable for being replicated, transferred or mainstreamed, including with respect to the *link between environment and health*, and in support of resource efficiency-related policy and legislation, including the Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe.
- To support the application, development, testing and demonstration of integrated approaches for the implementation of plans and programmes pursuant to Union environmental policy and legislation, primarily in the areas of water, waste and air.
- To improve the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring and evaluation of Union environmental policy and legislation, and for the assessment and monitoring of the factors, pressures and responses that affect the environment within and outside the Union.

#### **Nature and Biodiversity**

- To contribute to the implementation of Union policy and legislation in the area of biodiversity, including the Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, in particular by applying, developing, testing and demonstrating approaches, best practices and solutions.
- To support the further development, implementation and management of the Natura 2000 network set up, in particular the application, development, testing and demonstration of integrated approaches for the implementation of the Prioritised Action Frameworks.
- To improve the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring and evaluation of Union biodiversity policy and legislation, and for the assessment and monitoring of the factors, pressures and responses that affect the biodiversity within and outside the Union.

#### **Environmental Governance and Information**

- To promote awareness raising on environmental matters, including generating public and stakeholders support to Union policy-making in the field of environment, and to promote education for sustainable development.
- To support communication, management, and dissemination of information in the field of environment, and to facilitate knowledge sharing on successful environmental solutions and practice, including by developing cooperation platforms between stakeholders and training.
- To promote and contribute to a more effective compliance with and enforcement of Union environmental legislation, in particular by promoting the development and dissemination of best practices and policy approaches.
- To promote better environmental governance by broadening stakeholder involvement, including NGOs, in policy consultation and implementation.

The **Sub-Programme “Climate Action”** supported actions are:

#### **Climate Change Mitigation**

- To contribute to the implementation and development of Union policy and legislation on mitigation, including mainstreaming across policy areas, in particular by developing, testing and demonstrating policy or management approaches, best practices and solutions for climate change mitigation.

- To improve the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring, evaluation and implementation of effective mitigation actions and measures and to enhance the capacity to apply that knowledge in practice.
- To facilitate the development and implementation of integrated approaches, such as for mitigation strategies and action plans, at local, regional or national level.
- To contribute to the development and demonstration of innovative mitigation technologies, systems, methods and instruments that are suitable for being replicated, transferred or mainstreamed.

### **Climate Change Adaptation**

- To contribute to the development and implementation of Union policy and legislation on adaptation, including mainstreaming across policy areas, in particular by developing, testing and demonstrating policy or management approaches, best practices, and solutions, for climate change adaptation.
- To improve the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring, evaluation and implementation of effective adaptation actions and measures and to enhance the capacity to apply that knowledge in practice.
- To facilitate the development and implementation of integrated approaches, such as for adaptation strategies and action plans, at local, regional or national level.
- To contribute to the development and demonstration of innovative adaptation technologies, systems, methods and instruments that are suitable for being replicated, transferred or mainstreamed.

### **Climate Governance and Information**

- Stakeholders support to Union policymaking in the field of climate, and to promote education for sustainable development.
- To support communication, management, and dissemination of information in the field of climate and to facilitate knowledge sharing on successful climate solutions and practice, including by developing cooperation platforms between stakeholders and training.
- To promote and contribute to a more effective compliance with and enforcement of Union climate legislation, in particular by promoting the development and dissemination of best practices and policy approaches.
- To promote better climate governance by broadening stakeholder involvement, including NGOs, in policy consultation and implementation.

### **Potential beneficiaries**

LIFE is open to all "Member States" authorities and public bodies (at national, regional and local level), the private sector (including SMEs), NGOs and other non-profit organisations, and civil society groups. However, the Commission applies the principles of solidarity and effort sharing to ensure an adequate geographical balance when selecting Integrated Projects.

Programme is open to the participation of the following countries:

- 28 EU Member States
- European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries which are parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA): Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein;
- Switzerland
- candidate countries: Iceland, Macedonia, Montenegro, Turkey, Serbia
- potential candidates and acceding countries to the Union: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina; Kosovo
- countries to which the European Neighborhood Policy applies: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldavia Republic, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine and Palestine.
- countries which have become members of the European Environmental Agency in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 933/1999.

Such participation shall be pursued in accordance with the conditions laid down in the respective bilateral or multilateral agreements establishing the general principles for those third countries' participation in Union programmes.

### **Activities outside the Union or in overseas countries and territories**

LIFE Programme may finance activities outside the Union and in overseas countries and territories (OCTs) in accordance with Decision 2001/822/EC (the Overseas Association Decision), provided those activities are necessary to achieve Union environmental and climate objectives and to ensure the effectiveness of interventions carried out in Member State territories to which the Treaties apply.

A legal person established outside the Union may be able to participate in the projects provided the beneficiary coordinating the project is based in the Union and the activity to be carried out outside the Union meets the requirements necessary to achieve Union environmental and climate objectives and to ensure the effectiveness of interventions carried out in Member State territories to which the Treaties apply.

### **Funding**

*Life programme total budget* is of Total Budget: €3,45 billion

The budget allocation for *environment* is €2,59 billion.

Level of Financing (EU co-financing rate) 50%-75%

The budget allocation for *climate action* is €864 million.

Level of Financing (EU co-financing rate) 50%-75%

Further information are available on the following web site:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/>

### **Horizon 2020 Programme: Societal challenges Theme 3 and 5**

Horizon 2020 is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness. Running from 2014 to 2020 with about €80 billion budget, this EU's new programme for research and innovation is part of the drive to create new growth and jobs in Europe. It combines all research and innovation funding, previously provided through the Framework Programmes for Research and Technical Development, the innovation related activities of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). Horizon 2020 tackles societal challenges by helping to bridge the gap between research and the market by, for example, helping innovative enterprise to develop their technological breakthroughs into viable products with real commercial potential. This market-driven approach includes creating partnerships with the private sector and Member States to bring together the resources needed. International cooperation is an important crosscutting priority of Horizon 2020.

The key novelties of this funding instrument are:

- *major simplification* through a simpler programme architecture, a single set of rules;
- *less red tape* through an easy to use cost reimbursement model, a single point of access for participants, less paperwork in preparing proposals, fewer controls and audits, with the overall aim to reduce the average time to grant by 100 days;
- *an inclusive approach open to new participants*, including those with ideas outside of the mainstream, ensuring that excellent researchers and innovators from across Europe and beyond can and do participate;
- the *integration of research and innovation* by providing seamless and coherent funding from idea to market;

- *more support for innovation* and activities close to the market, leading to a direct economic stimulus;
- *a strong focus on creating business opportunities* out of our response to the major concerns common to people in Europe and beyond, i.e. 'societal challenges';
- *more possibilities for new entrants and young*, promising scientists to put forward their ideas and obtain funding.

The general objective of Horizon 2020 (H2020) is to contribute to building a society and an economy based on knowledge and innovation across the Union by leveraging additional research, development and innovation funding and by contributing to attaining research and development targets, including the target of 3% of GDP for research and development across the Union by 2020. It thus supports the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy and other Union policies, as well as the achievement and functioning of the European Research Area (ERA).

This general objective is pursued through three mutually reinforcing priorities:

- excellent science;
- industrial leadership;
- societal challenges.

The general objective is also pursued through the specific objectives 'Spreading excellence and widening participation' and 'Science with and for society'. The Joint Research Centre contributes to the general objective and the H2020 priorities by providing scientific and technical support to Union policies in collaboration with relevant national and regional research stakeholders, where appropriate, for example on the development of smart specialisation strategies.

#### **Priority: excellent science**

This priority aims to reinforce and extend the excellence of the Union's science base and to consolidate the European Research Area in order to make the Union's research and innovation system more competitive on a global scale. It consists of four specific objectives:

1. *The European Research Council (ERC)* provides attractive and flexible funding to enable talented and creative individual researchers and their teams to pursue the most promising avenues at the frontier of science, on the basis of Union-wide competition.
2. *Future and emerging technologies* support collaborative research in order to extend Europe's capacity for advanced and paradigm-changing innovation. It fosters scientific collaboration across disciplines on radically new, high-risk ideas and accelerate development of the most promising emerging areas of science and technology as well as the Union wide structuring of the corresponding scientific communities.
3. *Marie Curie actions* provide excellent and innovative research training as well as attractive career and knowledge-exchange opportunities through cross-border and cross-sector mobility of researchers to best prepare them to face current and future societal challenges.
4. *Research infrastructure* develops European research infrastructure for 2020 and beyond, foster their innovation potential and human capital, and complement this with the related Union policy and international cooperation.

#### **Priority: Industrial Leadership**

This priority aims to speed up development of the technologies and innovations that will underpin tomorrow's businesses and help innovative European SMEs to grow into world leading companies. It consists of three specific objectives:

1. *Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies* provides dedicated support for research, development and demonstration on ICT, nanotechnology, advanced materials, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing and processing and space. Emphasis is placed on interactions and convergence across and between the different technologies.



2. *Access to risk finance* aims to overcome deficits in the availability of debt and equity finance for R&D and innovation-driven companies and projects at all stages of development. Together with the equity instrument of the Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs, it supports the development of Union-level venture capital.
3. Innovation in SMEs stimulates all forms of innovation in SMEs, targeting those with the potential to grow and internationalise across the single market and beyond.

### **Priority: Societal challenges**

This priority responds directly to the policy priorities and societal challenges identified in the Europe 2020 strategy and aiming to stimulate the critical mass of research and innovation efforts needed to achieve Union's policy goals. Funding is focused on the following specific objectives:

1. Health, demographic change and well-being;
2. Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research, and the bio-economy;
3. **Secure, clean and efficient energy;**
4. Smart, green and integrated transport;
5. **Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials;**
6. Inclusive, innovative and secure societies.

All the activities have a challenge-based approach, focusing on policy priorities without predetermining the precise choice of technologies or solutions that should be developed. The emphasis is on bringing together a critical mass of resources and knowledge across different fields, technologies and scientific disciplines in order to address the challenges. The activities cover the full cycle from research to market, with a new focus on innovation related activities, such as piloting, demonstration, test-beds, support for public procurement, design, end-user driven innovation, social innovation and market take-up of innovations.

Social sciences and humanities are an integral part of the activities to address all the challenges. In addition, the underpinning development of these disciplines is supported under the specific objective 'Inclusive, innovative and secure societies'. Support also focuses on providing a strong evidence base for policy making at international, Union, national and regional levels. Given the global nature of many of the challenges, strategic cooperation with third countries is an integral part of each challenge. In addition, cross-cutting support for international cooperation is provided under the specific objective 'Inclusive, innovative and secure societies'.

The specific objective 'Inclusive, innovative and secure societies' also includes an activity to close the research and innovation divide with specific measures to unlock excellence in less developed regions of the Union.

The Joint Research Centre's activities are an integral part of Horizon 2020, in order to provide robust, evidence-based support for Union policies. This is driven by customer needs, complemented by forward-looking activities.

The EIT plays a major role by bringing together excellent research, education and innovation thus integrating the knowledge triangle. The EIT does so primarily through the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). In addition, it ensures that experiences are shared beyond the KICs through targeted dissemination and knowledge sharing measures, thereby promoting a faster uptake of innovation models across the Union.

### **Theme 3: SECURE, CLEAN AND EFFICIENT ENERGY**

The challenge is to ensure the transition to a reliable, sustainable and competitive energy system, in the face of increasing resource scarcity, increasing energy needs and climate change. This will be achieved through several broad lines of actions:

- "*Reduction of energy consumption and carbon footprint through smart and sustainable usage*" will consist of research and testing at full scale of new concepts, non-technological solutions, more efficient and affordable technology components and systems with in-built intelligence, to allow real time energy management for near zero emission buildings, renewable heating and cooling, highly

- efficient industries and mass take up of energy efficiency solutions, as well as fostering EU smart cities;
- "Low cost, low carbon electricity supply & single European electricity grid" will consist of the development of innovative renewables and carbon capture and storage technologies of larger scale, lower cost and environmentally safe, as well as new, smart electricity grid technologies, systems and market designs to plan, monitor, control and safely operate interoperable networks in an open and competitive market;
  - "Alternative fuels and mobile energy sources" aims to make bio-energy more competitive and sustainable, to reduce time-to-market of hydrogen and fuel cells and to bring new options with long-term potential to maturity.

In addition, there is support for multi-disciplinary research for future and emerging energy technologies and joint realisation of pan-European research programmes and world-class facilities as well as support of socio-economic research for public acceptance and engagement, user involvement and economic, social and environmental sustainability; development of tools, and methods and models for a robust and transparent policy support.

### **Theme 5: CLIMATE ACTION, RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND RAW MATERIALS**

This specific objective aims to achieve a resource efficient, climate change resilient economy, and a sustainable supply of raw materials, in order to meet the needs of a growing global population within the sustainable limits of the planet's natural resources.

Activities contribute to increasing European competitiveness and improving well-being, whilst assuring environmental integrity and sustainability, keeping average global warming below 2 °C and enabling ecosystems and society to adapt to climate change.

The challenge is to achieve a resource efficient and climate change resilient economy that meets the needs of a growing global population within the natural limits of a finite planet. Tackling this challenge will focus on the development of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures through the generation of evidence for informed, early and effective action and the networking of the required competences.

Specific objectives will focus on:

- improving the understanding of climate change and the provision of reliable climate projections;
- assessing impacts, vulnerabilities and developing innovative cost-effective adaptation measures;
- supporting mitigation policies.

Another objective is to provide knowledge for the management of natural resources that achieves a sustainable balance between limited resources and the needs of society. Specific objectives will focus on:

- furthering our understanding of the functioning of ecosystems, their interactions with social systems and their role in sustaining the economy and human well-being;
- providing knowledge and tools for effective decision-making and public engagement.

EU action also tries to provide innovative solutions for a sustainable supply of raw materials and for their substitution by economically attractive alternatives.

Specific objectives focus on:

- improving the understanding of the availability of raw materials;
- promoting their sustainable supply and use;
- finding alternatives for critical raw materials.

All forms of eco-innovation that enable the transition to a green economy may be supported.

Specific objectives focus on:

- strengthening eco-innovative technologies, services and products and enhancing their market uptake;
- supporting innovative policies and societal change;
- measuring and assessing progress towards a green economy;
- fostering resource efficiency through digital systems.

The last objective is to ensure the delivery of the long-term data and information required to address this challenge, i.e. data infrastructures for earth observation and monitoring that provide timely, accurate information, forecasts and projections. Free, open and unrestricted access to interoperable data is encouraged.

### **Fast Track to Innovation Pilot (2015-2016)**

The Fast Track to Innovation (FTI) pilot provides funding for bottom-up proposals for close-to-market innovation activities in any area of technology or application. This thematic openness – combined with the possibility for all kinds of innovation actors to work together and deliver innovation onto the market and/or into society – should nurture trans-disciplinary and cross-sectoral cooperation.

The aim is to:

- reduce time from idea to market,
- stimulate the participation of first-time applicants to EU research funding, and
- increase private sector investment in research and innovation.

Proposals for funding must be submitted by consortia comprising between three and five legal entities established in at least three different EU Member States or countries associated to Horizon 2020. Actions funded under the pilot are to be 'business-driven' because they are intended to give promising innovation ideas the last push before entering the market. Therefore, substantial industry involvement in FTI actions will be mandatory to ensure quick market take-up ('quick' meaning within a three-year period after the start of the FTI-action). This industry involvement will imply:

- either the allocation of at least 60% of the budget to industry participants in the consortium,
- or the presence of a minimum number of two industry participants in a consortium of three or four partners, or of three industry participants in a consortium of five partners.

### **Horizon Supported actions**

- *Research and innovation actions* primarily consisting of activities aiming to establish new knowledge and/or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. For this purpose they may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing and validation on a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment. Projects may contain closely connected but limited demonstration or pilot activities aiming to show technical feasibility in a near to operational environment.
- *Innovation actions* primarily consisting of activities directly aiming at producing plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. For this purpose they may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication.
- *Coordination and Support Actions* consisting primarily of accompanying measures such as standardisation, dissemination, awareness raising and communication, networking, coordination or support services, policy dialogues and mutual learning exercises and studies, including design studies for new infrastructure and may also include complementary activities of strategic planning, networking and coordination between programmes in different countries.

## Potential beneficiaries

Public and private Bodies, Non-Profit Organizations, Academic institutions and research centers of the following countries:

- EU Member States
  - candidate countries: Iceland, Macedonia, Montenegro, Turkey, Serbia
  - potential candidates and acceding countries to the Union: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo.
- In accordance with the general principles and general terms and conditions for the participation of those countries in Union programmes established in the respective framework agreements and decisions of association councils or similar agreements;
- selected third countries that fulfil all of the following criteria:
    - have a good capacity in science, technology and innovation;
    - have a good track record of participation in Union research and innovation programmes;
    - have close economic and geographical links to the Union;
  - are European Free Trade Association (EFTA) members (Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein);
  - or are covered by the European Neighbourhood Instrument (Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldavia Republic, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine and Palestine)

## Funding

Total Budget: €77,03 billion

- **excellent science:** Budget €24,44 billion  
Level of Financing (EU co-financing rate)
  - Coordination and Support actions 100%
  - Research and Innovation actions 100%
  - Innovation actions 70% (except for non-profit legal entities - 100%)
  - Pre-commercial procurement (PCP) Cofund 70%
  - Public procurement of Innovative solutions (PPI) Cofund 20%
- **industrial leadership:** Budget €17,02 billion  
Level of Financing (EU co-financing rate)
  - ERA-NET (Co-fund) 33%
  - Coordination and Support actions 100%
  - Research and Innovation actions 100%
  - Innovation actions 70% (except for non-profit legal entities - 100%)
- **societal challenges:** Budget €29,68 billion  
Level of Financing (EU co-financing rate)
  - ERA-NET (Co-fund) 33%
  - Coordination and Support actions 100%
  - Research and Innovation actions 100%
  - Innovation actions 70% (except for non-profit legal entities - 100%)

Further information are available at the following web site:

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/what-horizon-2020>

## **Connecting Europe Facility (CEF): Energy**

CEF is a multi-annual funding programme set up to finance improvements in Europe's transport, energy and digital networks. With an overall budget of close to €33 billion covering the three sectors, €5.85 billion has been allocated to energy for the period of 2014-2020. The lion's share of this amount is set aside for grants while roughly 10% of it goes to financial instruments that should help facilitate the access of infrastructure projects to corporate and project financing.

CEF objectives are:

- promoting the further integration of the internal energy market and the interoperability of electricity and gas networks across borders, including by ensuring that no Member State is isolated from the European network;
- enhancing Union security of supply, to be measured by the evolution of system resilience and security of system operations as well as number of projects allowing diversification of supply sources, supplying counterparts and routes;
- contributing to sustainable development and protection of the environment, notably by fostering the integration of energy from renewable sources into the transmission network and developing carbon dioxide networks.

CEF grants are targeted at a few critical projects and have to be combined with the efforts of regulatory authorities to finance projects through network tariffs and other funding sources.

In 2014, grants worth €647 million were allocated to proposals covering studies and works for key energy infrastructure projects. Grants for works went to projects which otherwise would not be commercially viable or simply not affordable for users in the Member States concerned. The money from the CEF should act as a catalyst for raising more funding from private and public investors.

To be eligible for financial support under the CEF, projects must first be included in the list of **projects of common interest (PCIs)**. These are key infrastructure projects, which will help Member States, integrate their energy markets and in particular end the isolation of some Member States from Europe-wide energy networks. The projects will also allow a greater diversity of sources to supply the different networks. Moreover, they will help power grids cope with the increasing amounts of electricity generated from renewable energy sources and in doing so will help reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The first list of PCIs was published in October 2013. It contains 248 projects, majorities of which are electricity and gas transmission lines. Thirteen projects for electricity storage are on the list, which include innovative technologies such as compressed air electricity storage. Furthermore, the list also provides for underground gas storages, LNG terminals, and two smart grids projects. The list is updated every two years and the next update will probably be available for the end of 2015.

EU support within this funding line is offered for preparatory studies, such as feasibility studies or environmental impact assessments. Support can also be given to build important gas infrastructure or electricity grids.

For the studies, all PCIs with the exception of oil projects are eligible for grants.

For construction works to be eligible for CEF funding, a PCI has to demonstrate that it:

- has significant benefits, such as security of supply, solidarity between Member States or innovation
- is commercially not viable;
- has received a cross-border cost allocation as sometimes a big part of an investment needs to be made by project promoters in one Member State while there are benefits across the border in

another Member State. In this case a decision on sharing the costs needs to be taken by the competent regulatory authorities.

The EU can finance the following kind of projects:

- an offshore grid in the Northern Seas to transport electricity produced by offshore wind parks to consumers in the big cities;
- innovative projects to store electricity;
- complex gas pipeline projects that allow bringing gas from new supply sources, such as the Caspian region into the EU;
- compressors, which enable gas to flow in both directions. This allow countries to help each other out in the event of a gas crisis.

In the **electricity sector**, four EU priority corridors have been identified:

- **an offshore grid in the Northern Seas and connection to Northern and Central Europe** to transport power produced by offshore wind parks to consumers in big cities and to store power in the hydroelectric power plants in the Alps and the Nordic countries;
- **interconnections in South Western Europe** to transport power generated from wind, solar, hydro to the rest of the continent;
- **connections in Central Eastern und South Eastern Europe**, strengthening the regional network;
- **integration of the Baltic Energy Market into the European market.**

In the **gas sector**, three EU priority corridors are identified:

- **southern Corridor** to deliver gas directly from the Caspian Sea to Europe to diversify gas sources;
- **Baltic Energy Market Integration and connection to Central and South East Europe;**
- **North-South corridor in Western Europe** to remove internal bottlenecks and enable best use of possible external supplies.

## Potential beneficiaries

Organizations, Academic institutions and research centers from the following countries:

- EU Member States
- Neighbouring countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine
- Other third Countries: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Israel, Turkmenistan

## Funding

€33 billion covering the three sectors of the programme, of which €5.85 billion is assigned to the Energy Sub-programme.

In general, the amount of EU support cannot exceed 50% of the eligible costs for both studies and works. In exceptional cases, when a project contributes significantly to the security of supply, enhances energy solidarity between Member States or offers highly innovative solutions, EU support may be increased to a maximum of 75% per cent of the costs for construction works.

The following financial instruments may be used:

- a) *equity instruments*, such as investment funds with a focus on providing risk capital for actions contributing to projects of common interest;
- b) *loans and/or guarantees* facilitated by risk-sharing instruments, including enhancement mechanism to project bonds, issued by a financial institution on its own resources with a Union contribution to the provisioning and/or capital allocation;
- c) *any other financial instruments*.

By combining various forms of support, it is possible to tailor the financial assistance provided to the particular needs of a project. Risk-sharing instruments are likely to be suitable for larger project-financed investments, such as big gas import pipelines involving numerous shareholders. Highly innovative projects with a significant technological risk, notably in offshore transmission, might require grant support to get off the ground.



### For further information

- + DG Energy website:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/infrastructure>
- + Energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond  
[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/infrastructure/strategy/2020\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/infrastructure/strategy/2020_en.htm)
- + The full list of projects of common interest by country are available on the following web site:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/2013\\_pci\\_projects\\_country\\_0.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/2013_pci_projects_country_0.pdf)
- + INEA web site  
<https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility/cef-energy>

## EU direct funding in the sustainable tourism sector 2014-2020

### **Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME)**

COSME is the EU programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). It aims to support SMEs in four areas:

- facilitate access to finance for SMEs through the "Loan Guarantee Facility" and the "Equity Facility for Growth". The Loan Guarantee Facility provides guarantees and counter-guarantees for financial intermediaries (e.g. banks, leasing companies) whereas the Equity Facility for Growth invests in funds that provide venture capital and mezzanine finance to expansion and growth-stage SMEs in particular those operating across borders;
- improving access to markets (notably thanks to the services provided by the Enterprise Europe Network);
- improving framework conditions for the competitiveness and sustainability of Union enterprises, notably thanks to the Tourism Action Plan;
- promoting entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial culture, notably thanks to the Erasmus for young entrepreneurs exchange scheme

Type of tourism-related actions eligible for funding

*Access to Finance:* any type of useful transaction or investment for the development of legitimate SMEs activities.

*Tourism Action Plan:* some of the Tourism Action Plan's objectives (diversify tourism offer; enhance tourism quality, sustainability, accessibility, skills, information and innovation and improve socio-economic knowledge of the sector) are pursued through calls for proposals and calls for tenders open to the tourism sector.

These concerns, among other things:

- the development and/or promotion of sustainable transnational thematic tourism products (linked, for instance, European routes dedicated to specific aspects of our cultural and industrial heritage, cycling trails, eco-tourism, maritime and sub-aquatic areas, etc.);
- the development and/or promotion of niche products exploiting synergies between tourism and creative industries at European level (e.g. European Route around high-end products);
- transnational public and private partnerships developing tourism products targeting specific age groups (e.g. seniors and youth) to increase tourism flows between European countries during the low and medium seasons
- capacity building schemes whereby managers, destination managers, entrepreneurs, who can learn from experienced and successful 'accessible' operators, create synergies with other operators along the supply chain, explore new market opportunities and way to make business.

*Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs:* this exchange scheme allows young entrepreneurs to spend 1 to 6 months with an experienced entrepreneur based in another European country and ready to act as a mentor. Young entrepreneurs and their hosts get to discover new European markets or business partners, different ways of doing business, and possibly decide to continue their collaboration on the longer-term (e.g. joint ventures, sub-contracting activities, contractor-supplier relationships). For young entrepreneurs, this action also eases the successful start of their business or strengthens their new enterprise. As for host entrepreneurs, they benefit from fresh ideas from a motivated new entrepreneur who may have specialised skills or knowledge, which complement theirs.

### **Potential beneficiaries**

EU 28 Member States



- *Access to Finance*: SMEs
- *Tourism Action Plan*: All legal persons (SMEs, NGOs, public authorities)
- *Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs*: Entrepreneurs

## Funding

COSME has a budget of over EUR 1.3 billion to fund the financial instruments that facilitate access to loans and equity finance for SMEs where market gaps have been identified.

Type and level of funding

*Access to Finance*: interventions (loans, guarantees) supported by the Loan Guarantee Facility: duration of minimum 12 months and maximum 10 years; amount below or equal to € 150.000 for any type of SME, and above under specific conditions.

*Tourism Action Plan*: grants for projects typically lasting 18 months, with an average EU contribution of € 250.000. Contracts for studies and analyses of variable duration and amount.

*Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs*: grants covering part of travel and subsistence costs during the visit. It is calculated monthly and reflects the overall living costs of the country of stay. Depending on the country of stay, the monthly financial assistance ranges from € 560 to € 1.100.



### For further information

- ✚ COSME web site  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/cosme/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/cosme/index_en.htm)
- ✚ For grants, information on calls for proposals and application procedures is available on the site of the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME), set up to manage COSME, and on Research & Innovation's Participant Portal <http://ec.europa.eu/easme/>  
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>
- ✚ For loans, credit guarantees, equity or venture capital, use the access to EU finance search engine to find financial intermediaries (commercial banks), located in your country and supported by the "Loan Guarantee Facility" or the "Equity Facility for Growth".  
[http://ec.europa.eu/growth/access-to-finance/cosme-financial-instruments/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/access-to-finance/cosme-financial-instruments/index_en.htm)
- ✚ "Erasmus for young entrepreneurs" exchange scheme, application can be done online or via a contact point in your country of residence.  
<http://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/index.php?lan=it>

## **EU direct funding in the Transport sector 2014-2020**

### ***Connecting Europe Facility (CEF): Transport***

The Connecting Europe Facility aims to invest €31.7 billion to upgrade Europe's transport infrastructure, build missing links and remove bottlenecks. This includes €10 billion ring fenced in the Cohesion Fund for transport projects in the cohesion countries, with the remaining 21.7 billion available for all Member States for investing in transport infrastructure. The idea is to improve links between different parts of the EU, to make it easier for different countries to exchange goods and people with each other.

By focusing on transport modes that are less polluting, the Connecting Europe Facility: Transport, is pushing our transport system to become more sustainable. It also gives consumers more choice about how they want to travel.

The main aims of the CEF Transport are:

- removing bottlenecks and bridging missing links, measured by the number of new and improved cross-border connections and removed bottlenecks on transport routes which have benefited from CEF;
- ensuring sustainable and efficient transport in the long run, measured by the length of the conventional railway network in the EU-28 and the length of high-speed railway network in the EU-28;
- Optimising the integration and interconnection of transport modes and enhancing interoperability of transport services, measured by the number of ports and airports connected to the railway network.

Transport systems in Europe have traditionally developed along national lines. The EU has a crucial role to play in coordinating between Member States when planning, managing and funding cross-border projects. A well-functioning network is essential to the smooth operation of the single market and for boosting competitiveness. The Commission proposed to create corridors to cover the most important cross-border projects. It has estimated that by 2020, €500 billion will be needed to create a real European network, including €250 billion for removing bottlenecks and completing missing links in the core network.

CEF transport, aims to promote the completion of the "transport core network" which is thus the key objective of the facility, using a pan European planning methodology. Beyond maintenance of existing assets, the comprehensive network would be based on the past TEN-T and encompass existing and planned infrastructure in Member States.

Furthermore, the task is to build an environment conducive to private investment and develop instruments that will be attractive vehicles for specialised infrastructure investors. Member States and the European Union must set the conditions to stimulate private investment and must also step-up their own efforts despite, and because of the current financial difficulties facing all public authorities. To be most effective, such vehicles need to be multi-sector and multi-country to maximise diversification and thereby reduce risk. This can only be achieved at the European level and on the basis of well-defined corridors and targeted areas of investment. Attracting savings to long term, growth-enhancing investments will stimulate the economy, create jobs, boost consumption and support the goals agreed by all as part of the Europe 2020 strategy.

The Connecting Europe Facility will support pan European projects where a coordinated and optimised approach will reduce the collective costs or address the issue of uneven returns. Furthermore, through the joint establishment of financial instruments, it will provide tools for attracting private sector funds from both within and beyond the EU. Project financing thereby complement and enhance the use of EU funds. The

'Connecting Europe' facility also exploits synergies in hard infrastructure (for example by realising jointly large transport and energy cross-border links) and by deploying smart information technologies in transport and energy infrastructure.

CEF financial support takes primarily two forms:

- *grants*, which are non-reimbursable investments from the EU budget;
- *contributions to innovative financial instruments*, developed together with entrusted financial institutions such as the European Investment Bank, the Marguerite Fund, the Loan Guarantee for TEN Transport (LGTT) and the Project Bond Initiative.

## Potential beneficiaries

28 EU Member States

The EU is our main focus but TENs policy extends to the EU neighbours:

- Accession countries,
- the European Economic Area (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein),
- the Balkans
- Mediterranean Partner Countries and the Eastern Neighbourhood.

## Funding

The Infrastructures Facility has a single fund of €31.7 billion for the period 2014-2020. The Commission centrally manages the Facility with the support of an executive agency (INEA agency) and financial intermediaries. An additional €10 billion ring fenced for related transport infrastructures investments inside the Cohesion Fund complements the Facility.

- Grants for studies, 50% of the eligible costs.
- Grants for works:
  - ✓ *for railway networks, and road networks in the case of Member States with no railway network established in their territory or in the case of a Member State, or part thereof, with an isolated network without long-distance rail freight transport: 20% of the eligible costs; the funding rate may be increased to a maximum of 30% for actions addressing bottlenecks and to 40% for actions concerning cross-border sections and actions enhancing rail interoperability;*
  - ✓ *for inland waterways: 20% of the eligible costs; the funding rate may be increased to a maximum of 40% for actions addressing bottlenecks and to a maximum of 40% for actions concerning cross- border sections;*
  - ✓ *for inland transport, connections to and the development of multimodal logistics platforms including connections to inland and maritime ports and airports, as well as the development of ports: 20% of the eligible costs;*
  - ✓ *for actions to reduce rail freight noise including by retrofitting existing rolling stock: 20% of the eligible costs up to a combined ceiling of 1% of the budgetary resources referred to in point (a) of Article 5(1);*
  - ✓ *for better accessibility to transport infrastructure for disabled persons: 30% of the eligible cost of adaptation works, not exceeding in any case 10% of the total eligible cost of works;*
  - ✓ *for actions supporting new technologies and innovation for all modes of transport: 20% of the eligible costs;*
  - ✓ *or actions to support cross-border road sections: 10% of the eligible costs;*
  - ✓ *grants for telematic applications systems and services (20%-50%).*



## For further information

- ✚ DG Mobility and Transport  
[http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/infrastructure/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/infrastructure/index_en.htm)
- ✚ Brochure on selected projects under the 2014 CEF Transport Calls  
[https://ec.europa.eu/inea/sites/inea/files/cef\\_brochure\\_final\\_web.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/inea/sites/inea/files/cef_brochure_final_web.pdf)
- ✚ INEA web site  
<https://ec.europa.eu/inea/connecting-europe-facility/cef-transport>
- ✚ The "info sheets" for each Member State give an overview of the core network corridor(s) that cross each territory, and the key projects to be built in the period 2014–2020  
[http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/infrastructure/ten-t-guidelines/country-by-country\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/infrastructure/ten-t-guidelines/country-by-country_en.htm)
- ✚ The Loan Guarantee Instrument for Trans-European Transport Network Projects (LGTT)  
<http://www.eib.org/products/blending/lgtt/index.htm>

## **Horizon 2020 Programme : Societal challenges - Theme 4**

Horizon 2020 is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness. Running from 2014 to 2020 with about €80 billion budget, this EU's new programme for research and innovation is part of the drive to create new growth and jobs in Europe. It combines all research and innovation funding previously provided through the Framework Programmes for Research and Technical Development, the innovation related activities of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). Horizon 2020 tackles societal challenges by helping to bridge the gap between research and the market by, for example, helping innovative enterprise to develop their technological breakthroughs into viable products with real commercial potential. This market-driven approach includes creating partnerships with the private sector and Member States to bring together the resources needed. International cooperation is an important crosscutting priority of Horizon 2020.

### **Priority: Societal challenges**

This priority responds directly to the policy priorities and societal challenges identified in the Europe 2020 strategy and aiming to stimulate the critical mass of research and innovation efforts needed to achieve Union's policy goals. Funding focuses on the following specific objectives:

1. health, demographic change and well-being;
2. food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research, and the bio-economy;
3. secure, clean and efficient energy;
4. **smart, green and integrated transport;**
5. climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials;
6. inclusive, innovative and secure societies.

All the activities have a challenge-based approach, focusing on policy priorities without predetermining the precise choice of technologies or solutions that should be developed. The emphasis is on bringing together a critical mass of resources and knowledge across different fields, technologies and scientific disciplines in order to address the challenges. The activities cover the full cycle from research to market, with a new focus on innovation related activities, such as piloting, demonstration, test-beds, support for public procurement, design, end-user driven innovation, social innovation and market take-up of innovations.

Given the global nature of many of the challenges, strategic cooperation with third countries is an integral part of each challenge.

The Joint Research Centre's activities are an integral part of Horizon 2020, in order to provide robust, evidence-based support for Union policies. This is driven by customer needs, complemented by forward-looking activities.

The EIT plays a major role by bringing together excellent research, education and innovation thus integrating the knowledge triangle. The EIT does so primarily through the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). In addition, it ensures that experiences are shared beyond the KICs through targeted dissemination and knowledge sharing measures, thereby promoting a faster uptake of innovation models across the Union.

### **Theme 4: SMART, GREEN AND INTEGRATED TRANSPORT**

The challenge is to achieve a European transport system that is resource-efficient, environmentally friendly, safe and seamless for the benefit of citizens, the economy and society. The purpose of EU support is to minimize transport's impact on climate and the environment by improving its efficiency in the use of natural resources, and by reducing its dependence on fossil fuels through specific objectives like:

- reducing resource consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and improving vehicle efficiency;
- accelerating the development and deployment of a new generation of electric and other low or zero emission vehicles, including through breakthroughs in engines, batteries and infrastructure;

- exploring and exploiting the potential of alternative fuels;
- optimising the use of infrastructures, by means of intelligent transport systems and smart equipment;
- increasing the use of demand management and public transport, particularly in urban areas.

EU also aims to reconcile growing mobility needs with improved transport fluidity, through innovative solutions for seamless, inclusive, safe, secure and robust transport systems and specific objectives like:

- reducing congestion, improving accessibility and matching user needs by promoting integrated door-to-door transport and logistics;
- enhancing inter-modality and the deployment of smart planning and management solutions;
- drastically reducing the occurrence of accidents.

Another objective is to reinforce the competitiveness and performance of European transport industries through specific objectives like developing the next generation of innovative transport means and preparing the ground for the following one and working on novel concepts and designs, smart control systems and interoperable standards, efficient production processes, shorter development times and reduced lifecycle costs.

Horizon 2020 also supports improved policy making which is necessary to promote innovation and meet the challenges raised by transport. Specific objectives are to improve the understanding of transport related socio-economic trends and prospects, and provide policy makers with evidence-based data and analyses.

#### **Fast Track to Innovation Pilot (2015-2016)**

The Fast Track to Innovation (FTI) pilot provides funding for bottom-up proposals for close-to-market innovation activities in any area of technology or application. This thematic openness – combined with the possibility for all kinds of innovation actors to work together and deliver innovation onto the market and/or into society – should nurture trans-disciplinary and cross-sectoral cooperation.

The aim is to:

- reduce time from idea to market,
- stimulate the participation of first-time applicants to EU research funding, and
- increase private sector investment in research and innovation.

Consortia comprising between three and five legal entities established in at least three different EU Member States or countries associated to Horizon 2020 could submit proposals for funding. Actions funded under the pilot are to be 'business-driven' because they aim at giving promising innovation ideas the last push before entering the market. Therefore, substantial industry involvement in FTI actions will be mandatory to ensure quick market take-up ('quick' meaning within a three-year period after the start of the FTI-action). This industry involvement will imply:

- either the allocation of at least 60% of the budget to industry participants in the consortium;
- or the presence of a minimum number of two industry participants in a consortium of three or four partners, or of three industry participants in a consortium of five partners.

#### **Horizon Supported actions**

- *Research and innovation actions* primarily consisting of activities aiming to establish new knowledge and/or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. For this purpose, they may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing and validation on a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment. Projects may contain closely connected but limited demonstration or pilot activities aiming to show technical feasibility in a near to operational environment.

- *Innovation actions* primarily consisting of activities directly aiming at producing plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. For this purpose, they may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication.
- *Coordination and Support Actions* consisting primarily of accompanying measures such as standardisation, dissemination, awareness raising and communication, networking, coordination or support services, policy dialogues and mutual learning exercises and studies, including design studies for new infrastructure and may also include complementary activities of strategic planning, networking and coordination between programmes in different countries.

## Potential beneficiaries

Public and private Bodies, non-Profit Organizations, academic institutions and research centers of the following countries:

- EU Member States
  - candidate countries: Iceland, Macedonia, Montenegro, Turkey, Serbia
  - potential candidates and acceding countries to the Union: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina; Kosovo.
- In accordance with the general principles and general terms and conditions for the participation of those countries in Union programmes established in the respective framework agreements and decisions of association councils or similar agreements;
- selected third countries that fulfil all of the following criteria:
    - have a good capacity in science, technology and innovation;
    - have a good track record of participation in Union research and innovation programmes;
    - have close economic and geographical links to the Union;
  - are European Free Trade Association (EFTA) members (Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein);
  - or are covered by the European Neighbourhood Instrument (Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldavia Republic, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine and Palestine)

## Funding

Total Budget: €77,03 billion

- **societal challenges:** Budget €29,68 billion  
Level of Financing (EU co-financing rate)
  - ERA-NET (Co-fund) 33%
  - Coordination and Support actions 100%
  - Research and Innovation actions 100%
  - Innovation actions 70% (except for non-profit legal entities - 100%)

Further information are available at the following web site:

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/what-horizon-2020>



## EU direct funding in the Health sector 2014-2020

### **Horizon 2020 Programme: Societal challenges Theme 1 and 2**

Horizon 2020 is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness. Running from 2014 to 2020 with about €80 billion budget, this EU's new programme for research and innovation is part of the drive to create new growth and jobs in Europe. It combines all research and innovation funding previously provided through the Framework Programmes for Research and Technical Development, the innovation related activities of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). Horizon 2020 tackles societal challenges by helping to bridge the gap between research and the market by, for example, helping innovative enterprise to develop their technological breakthroughs into viable products with real commercial potential. This market-driven approach includes creating partnerships with the private sector and Member States to bring together the resources needed. International cooperation is an important crosscutting priority of Horizon 2020.

#### **Priority: Societal challenges**

This priority responds directly to the policy priorities and societal challenges identified in the Europe 2020 strategy and aiming to stimulate the critical mass of research and innovation efforts needed to achieve Union's policy goals. Funding focuses on the following specific objectives:

1. **Health, demographic change and well-being;**
2. **Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research, and the bio-economy;**
3. Secure, clean and efficient energy;
4. Smart, green and integrated transport;
5. Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials;
6. Inclusive, innovative and secure societies.

All the activities have a challenge-based approach, focusing on policy priorities without predetermining the precise choice of technologies or solutions that should be developed. The emphasis is on bringing together a critical mass of resources and knowledge across different fields, technologies and scientific disciplines in order to address the challenges. The activities cover the full cycle from research to market, with a new focus on innovation related activities, such as piloting, demonstration, test-beds, support for public procurement, design, end-user driven innovation, social innovation and market take-up of innovations.

The Joint Research Centre's activities are an integral part of Horizon 2020, in order to provide robust, evidence-based support for Union policies. This is driven by customer needs, complemented by forward-looking activities.

The EIT plays a major role by bringing together excellent research, education and innovation thus integrating the knowledge triangle. The EIT does so primarily through the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). In addition, it ensures that experiences are shared beyond the KICs through targeted dissemination and knowledge sharing measures, thereby promoting a faster uptake of innovation models across the Union.

#### **Theme 1: HEALTH, DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE AND WELLBEING**

This priority aims to invest better health for all. It aims to keep older people active and independent for longer and supports the development of new, safer and more effective interventions. R&I under Horizon 2020 also contributes to the sustainability of health and care systems.

The challenge is to improve the life-long health and well-being of all while maintaining economically sustainable care systems. EU objectives focus on:

- disease prevention through the development of effective preventive tools (e.g. vaccines);
- effective health and disease surveillance and preparedness;
- effective screening programmes.

This will enhance effective health promotion, supported by a robust evidence base, which improves well-being and is cost effective. Support is also provided for activities aiming at understanding disease and improving diagnosis in order to better prevent, manage, treat and cure diseases. Effective data sharing with strong international focus and linking data with large-scale cohort studies are essential, as is the translation of research findings into the clinic, in particular through the conduct of clinical trials. Efforts have to be deployed to improve decision-making in prevention and treatment, to identify and support the dissemination of best practices in the health and care sectors, and to support integrated care and the wide uptake of technological and organisational innovations empowering in particular older persons as well as disabled persons to remain active and independent. Doing so will contribute to increasing, and lengthening the duration of, their physical, social, and mental well-being.

### **Theme 2: FOOD SECURITY, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, MARINE AND MARITIME RESEARCH AND THE BIOECONOMY**

The challenge is to secure sustainable supplies of safe and high-quality food and other bio-based products, by providing productive, resource-efficient and resilient production systems, while accelerating the conversion towards low-carbon, resource efficient and sustainable bio-based European industries.

EU activities are focused on:

- "*Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry*", aiming for more productive, resource-efficient and resilient agriculture and forestry systems in order to supply sufficient food and biomaterials without compromising natural resources;
- "*Safe and Sustainable Food and Healthy Diets*", aiming to meet the demands of citizens for safe, healthy and affordable food, and to make the food and feed industry more sustainable and more competitive;
- "*Unlocking the Potential of Aquatic Living Resources*", aiming to optimise the contribution to secure food supplies by developing sustainable and environmentally friendly fisheries and competitive European aquaculture in the context of the global economy and to boost marine innovation through biotechnology to fuel smart "blue" growth;
- "*Sustainable and Competitive Bio-based Industries*", aiming to promote low carbon, resource efficient, sustainable and competitive European bio-based industries. Specific objectives are to transforming conventional industrial processes and products into bio-based resource and energy efficient ones, the development of integrated bio refineries, utilising biomass from primary production, bio-waste and bio-based industry by-products, and opening new markets through supporting standardisation, regulatory and demonstration/field trial activities and others.

### **Fast Track to Innovation Pilot (2015-2016)**

The Fast Track to Innovation (FTI) pilot provides funding for bottom-up proposals for close-to-market innovation activities in any area of technology or application. This thematic openness – combined with the possibility for all kinds of innovation actors to work together and deliver innovation onto the market and/or into society – should nurture trans-disciplinary and cross-sectoral cooperation.

The aim is to:

- reduce time from idea to market,
- stimulate the participation of first-time applicants to EU research funding, and
- increase private sector investment in research and innovation.

Consortia comprising between three and five legal entities established in at least three different EU Member States or countries associated to Horizon 2020, may submit proposals for funding. Actions funded under the pilot are to be 'business-driven' because they are intended to give promising innovation ideas the last push

before entering the market. Therefore, substantial industry involvement in FTI actions will be mandatory to ensure quick market take-up ('quick' meaning within a three-year period after the start of the FTI-action).

This industry involvement will imply:

- either the allocation of at least 60% of the budget to industry participants in the consortium,
- on the other hand, the presence of a minimum number of two industry participants in a consortium of three or four partners, or of three industry participants in a consortium of five partners.

### Horizon Supported actions

- *Research and innovation actions* primarily consisting of activities aiming to establish new knowledge and/or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. For this purpose they may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing and validation on a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment. Projects may contain closely connected but limited demonstration or pilot activities aiming to show technical feasibility in a near to operational environment.
- *Innovation actions* primarily consisting of activities directly aiming at producing plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. For this purpose, they may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication.
- *Coordination and Support Actions* consisting primarily of accompanying measures such as standardisation, dissemination, awareness raising and communication, networking, coordination or support services, policy dialogues and mutual learning exercises and studies, including design studies for new infrastructure and may also include complementary activities of strategic planning, networking and coordination between programmes in different countries.

### Potential beneficiaries

Public and private Bodies, non-Profit Organizations, academic institutions and research centers of the following countries:

- EU Member States
  - candidate countries: Iceland, Macedonia, Montenegro, Turkey, Serbia
  - potential candidates and acceding countries to the Union: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo.
- In accordance with the general principles and general terms and conditions for the participation of those countries in Union programmes established in the respective framework agreements and decisions of association councils or similar agreements;
- selected third countries that fulfil all of the following criteria:
    - have a good capacity in science, technology and innovation;
    - have a good track record of participation in Union research and innovation programmes;
    - have close economic and geographical links to the Union;
  - are European Free Trade Association (EFTA) members (Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein);
  - or are covered by the European Neighbourhood Instrument (Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldavia Republic, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine and Palestine)

### Funding

Total Budget: €77,03 billion

- **societal challenges:** Budget €29,68 billion  
Level of Financing (EU co-financing rate)
  - ERA-NET (Co-fund) 33%
  - Coordination and Support actions 100%
  - Research and Innovation actions 100%

- Innovation actions 70% (except for non-profit legal entities - 100%)

Further information are available at the following web site:

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/what-horizon-2020>

## **Connecting Europe Facility: Telecommunications and ICT**

The "Connecting Europe Facility: Telecommunications and ICT" support investment in fast and very fast broadband networks and pan-European digital services.

The CEF finance leverages other private and public money, by giving infrastructure projects credibility and lowering their risk profiles. On the basis of conservative estimates, the Commission considers that the network infrastructure finance could stimulate investment worth more than €50 billion. The Digital Agenda for Europe set targets for 2020 of broadband access for all at speeds of at least 30 Mbps, with at least 50% of households subscribing to speeds above 100Mbps.

It has two main aims:

- accelerating the deployment of fast and ultrafast broadband networks and their uptake, including by small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), to be measured by the level of broadband and ultrafast broadband coverage and the number of households having subscribed for broadband connections for above 100 Mbps (megabits per second);
- promoting the interconnection and interoperability of national public services online as well as access to such networks, to be measured by the percentage of citizens and businesses using public services on-line and the availability of such services across borders.

As regards digital services, the money can be used for grants to build infrastructure needed to rollout e-ID, eProcurement, **electronic health care records**, Europeana, eJustice and customs-related services. The money ensures interoperability and meet the costs of running the infrastructure at European level, linking up Member States' infrastructures.

The digital service infrastructure projects are selected for CEF grants by the Commission from proposals received in such areas as:

- trans-European very high-speed backbone connections for public administrations;
- **cross-border delivery of eGovernment and e-Health services;**
- enabling access to public sector information and multilingual services;
- pan-EU authentication of electronic identification (eID) so that citizens and businesses can access digital services in any Member State;
- electronic procurement;
- making it easier to complete administrative procedures to set up a business in another EU country;
- cooperation to take down illegal content (e.g. child pornography) from the Internet;
- coordinated responses to cyber-threats;
- enabling access to Europe's cultural heritage (Europeana);
- **deployment of information and communication technology solutions for intelligent energy networks and for the provision of Smart Energy Services.**

Projects are evaluated on the basis of their ability to contribute towards a digital Single Market in the EU. They are financed primarily by grants. The money can be used to promote pan-European interoperability and meet the costs of linking up existing, often national, infrastructures and of running dedicated European-level components of digital service infrastructures.

## Potential beneficiaries

Public Sector, non-Profit Organizations, academic institutions and research centers from EU Member States

## Funding

The exact amount of funding available each year in the CEF to support both broadband and digital service infrastructure are set out in Annual Work Programmes.

The budget devoted to telecommunications and ICT is 1.141 billion euro.

- Actions in the field of generic services: 75% of the eligible costs.
- Horizontal actions including infrastructure mapping, twinning and technical assistance: 75% of the eligible costs.

In the field broadband infrastructure, EU funding from the CEF leverage other private and public money by giving projects credibility and lowering their risk profiles. The money take the form of equity, debt or guarantees. This should then attract capital market financing from investors. The Commission and international financial institutions such as the European Investment Bank absorb part of the risk and improve projects' credit rating.

Projects are likely to be proposed by established telecoms operators as well as new players such as water, sewage, electricity utilities, cooperative investment projects or construction firms. Many projects are likely to involve several of these investors clubbing together. The Commission also expects public authorities to join projects as part of public-private partnerships.

The aim is to support investment in less obviously attractive broadband infrastructure projects, especially those outside urban or densely populated areas.



### For further information

- The Digital Agenda for Europe  
<http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/connecting-europe-facility>
- INEA web site  
<https://ec.europa.eu/inea/connecting-europe-facility/cef-telecom>
- Europeana  
<http://www.europeana.eu/portal/>

## **EU Third Health Programme**

The EU is required by its founding treaty to ensure that human health is protected as part of all its policies, and to work with the EU countries to improve public health, prevent human illness and eliminate sources of danger to physical and mental health.

The EU health strategy "Together for Health" supports the overall Europe 2020 strategy. Europe 2020 aims to turn the EU into a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy promoting growth for all – one prerequisite of which is a population in good health.

Adopted in March 2014, the programme has four overarching objectives. It seeks to:

- promote health, prevent diseases, and foster supportive environments for healthy lifestyles;
- protect citizens from serious cross-border health threats;
- contribute to innovative, efficient and sustainable health systems;
- facilitate access to better and safer healthcare for Union citizens.

The **thematic priorities** are:

- Promote health, prevent diseases and foster supportive environments for healthy lifestyles
  - ✓ Risk factors such as use of tobacco and passive smoking, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy dietary habits and physical inactivity
  - ✓ Drugs-related health damage, including information and prevention
  - ✓ HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and hepatitis
  - ✓ Chronic diseases including cancer, age-related diseases and neurodegenerative diseases
  - ✓ Tobacco legislation
  - ✓ Health information and knowledge system to contribute to evidence-based decision-making
- Protect citizens from serious cross-border health threats
  - ✓ Additional capacities of scientific expertise for risk assessment
  - ✓ Capacity-building against health threats in Member States, including, where appropriate, cooperation with neighbouring countries
  - ✓ Implementation of Union legislation on communicable diseases and other health threats, including those caused by biological and chemical incidents, environment and climate change
  - ✓ Health information and knowledge system to contribute to evidence-based decision-making
- Contribute to innovative, efficient and sustainable health systems;
  - ✓ Health Technology Assessment
  - ✓ Innovation and e-health
  - ✓ Health workforce forecasting and planning
  - ✓ Setting up a mechanism for pooling expertise at Union level
  - ✓ European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing
  - ✓ Implementation of Union legislation in the field of medical devices, medicinal products and cross-border healthcare
  - ✓ Health information and knowledge system including support to the Scientific Committees set up in accordance with Commission Decision 2008/721/EC
- Facilitate access to better and safer healthcare for Union citizens.
  - ✓ European Reference Networks
  - ✓ Rare diseases
  - ✓ Patient safety and quality of healthcare

- ✓ Measures to prevent antimicrobial resistance and control healthcare-associated infections
- ✓ Implementation of Union legislation in the fields of tissues and cells, blood, organs
- ✓ Health information and knowledge system to contribute to evidence-based decision-making

The third EU health programme is the main instrument the European Commission uses to implement the EU health strategy. It is implemented by means of annual work plans, which set out priority areas and the criteria for funding actions under the programme.

Participation to the third EU Health Programme is supported by a new online system, which was introduced to make applying for funding through the Programme easier and the whole procedure - from the submission of applications to the signature of grants for the successful applicants – significantly shorter.

The Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (Chafea) helps implement this Programme for the Commission and thus subsequently launches calls for proposals for projects and operating grants.

## **Potential beneficiaries**

Participation is open to a wide range of organisations, including:

- Research institutes and universities
- Public authorities
- NGO's
- Commercial firms

Different participation rules apply, depending on how the initiative is funded. The details are specified in the annual work plan and call for proposals published each year.

All EU countries, Iceland and Norway participate in the Health Programme i.e. entities registered in these countries are eligible to participate in the calls for proposals.

No other country has signed a specific agreement on the Health Programme so far. When such an agreement will be signed in the future, the Commission and Chafea will publish the country's name on their web sites.

Even organisations from countries not participating in the programme are encouraged to get involved, where this can help achieve the programme's objectives. Partners from participating countries can invite such organisations, if their contribution is considered useful. However, they may neither contribute financially nor receive any funding from the programme.

## **Funding**

The Programme total budget is of €449.4 million to support:

- cooperation projects at EU level;
- actions jointly undertaken by Member State health authorities;
- the functioning of nongovernmental bodies;
- cooperation with international organisations.

The EU co-financing rate is of 60% (up to 80% in exceptional cases, such as for Member States with a low Gross National Income participating in joint actions).



## For further information

- ✚ DG Health and Food Safety  
[http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/2014-2020/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/2014-2020/index_en.htm)
- ✚ Health Portal  
[http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/portal/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/portal/index_en.htm)
- ✚ EU Health Strategy  
[http://ec.europa.eu/health/strategy/policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/strategy/policy/index_en.htm)
- ✚ Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency  
<http://ec.europa.eu/chafea/health/index.html>



## **Consumer Programme**

With a budget of EUR 188,8 million, The Consumer Programme 2014-2020, supports EU consumer policy. It aims to help the citizens fully enjoy their consumer rights and actively participate in the Single Market, thus supporting growth, innovation and meeting the objectives of Europe 2020.

The Consumer Programme focuses on four key areas:

- a single market of safe products for the benefit of citizens and as a component of competitive businesses and traders;
- a single market where citizens are well represented by professional consumer organisations whose capacity is built to meet the challenges of today's economic environment;
- a market where citizens are aware and exercise their rights as consumers so that they contribute to the growth of competitive markets, citizens must enjoy access to redress mechanisms in case of problems without needing to resort to court procedures which are lengthy and costly for them and the governments;
- a concrete and effective collaboration between national bodies to support the enforcement of consumer rights, support the consumers with advice.

Calls for tenders and proposals are published on the website of the Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency.”

The supported actions are:

### *Under Objective 1 - Safety:*

- scientific advice and risk analysis relevant to consumer health and safety regarding non-food products and services;
- coordination of market surveillance and enforcement actions on product safety;
- maintenance and further development of databases on cosmetics.

### *Under Objective 2 – Information and Education:*

- building the evidence base for policy-making in areas affecting consumers;
- support to consumer organisations;
- enhancing the transparency of consumer markets and consumer information;
- enhancing consumer education.

### *Under Objective 3 – Rights and Redress:*

- preparation by the Commission of consumer protection legislation and other regulatory initiatives;
- facilitating access to and monitoring of the functioning and the effectiveness of dispute resolution mechanisms for consumers.

### *Under Objective 4 – Enforcement:*

- coordination of surveillance and enforcement actions with regard to cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protections laws;
- financial contributions for joint actions with public or non-profit bodies constituting Union networks, which provide information and assistance to consumers.

## **Potential beneficiaries**

Funding is available for:

- government entities
- public bodies and
- national and EU level consumer organisations.

The Programme is open to:

- EU Member States
- EFTA/EEA countries


- countries acceding to the EU, candidate countries and potential candidates
- countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy, as long as membership of the programme remains in accordance with the conditions of their bilateral or multilateral agreements

## Funding

The EU Budget is of EUR 188,8 million. The EU co-financing rate is of 50%-70%



**For more information**

 Commission's Directorate General for Justice and Consumers  
[http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/index_en.htm)

 Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency  
<http://ec.europa.eu/chafea/>

## External assistance programmes 2014-2020

The legislative package regarding the EU external assistance consists of a main Communication entitled 'Global Europe' and legislative decisions for nine geographic and thematic instruments. The budget assigned to global euro is of 66,262 million in current prices for the programming period 2014-2020.

The basic principle is that at a time when the world order is changing rapidly and emerging economies like China, India and Brazil are asserting their influence, Europe must stand together and be an active partner in shaping global change. The budget assigned to the external assistance should also enable the EU to further reinforce its role on the global stage and promote its interests and values.

An increased external relations budget should help make Europe count in a world of shifting alliances and emerging new powers. The overall objective for external action is to ensure that the EU is also able to live up to its ambitions in promoting democracy, peace, solidarity, stability and poverty reduction and to help safeguard global public goods.

The EU focuses its work with its external partners on **four policy priorities**:

- Enlargement
- Neighbourhood,
- Cooperation with strategic partners
- Development cooperation.

In the current programming EU therefore continues its engagement with the rest of the world. The relations with our immediate neighbourhood, East and South, and with our strategic partners remains a top priority. As global interdependence grows our security and prosperity needs to be promoted beyond our borders.

That is why the overall objective for external action under the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) is to ensure that the EU remains an influential and effective partner that promotes democracy, peace, solidarity, stability, poverty reduction and prosperity, both in our immediate EU Neighbourhood and across the wider world.

It remains fully committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. EU funding focuses even more on helping the poorest in the world by concentrating support on fewer countries (like Sub-Saharan Africa) and fewer sectors (like sustainable and inclusive growth and good governance). The EU furthermore maintains its efforts in crisis prevention in order to preserve peace and strengthen international security. The external assistance instruments also aims to strengthen the EU's engagement with third countries on issues that are of global concern, such as climate change, environmental protection and regional instabilities, and allow the EU to respond rapidly and effectively to natural and man-made disasters around the world.

The work of the European Union (EU) in the area of external relations also includes the negotiation of trade agreements, and cooperation on energy, health, climate and environmental issues, often in the context of international organisations such as the United Nations. It also operates European Neighbourhood Policy programmes in relation to its closest international neighbours.

Under the Lisbon Treaty, which came into force in 2009, there was a reorganisation of the EU's external relations work with the creation of the European External Action Services (EEAS), the European Union's diplomatic arm, and the post of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

EU also provides a set of funding instruments, which are the legal basis of geographic and thematic programmes. Thematic and geographic instruments define the legal framework and the scope of programmes and specify which actors and which areas are eligible for funding.

Within these funding instruments, the EU's development assistance is distributed through multi-annual programmes. Programmes can target individual countries or sectors, as well as regions.

The EU's thematic programmes encourage the participation of civil society organisations and local authorities in development cooperation.



### **For more information**

- ✚ European Union External Action  
[http://ec.europa.eu/around/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/around/index_en.htm)
- ✚ International Cooperation and Development  
[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/about-funding\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/about-funding_en)
- ✚ EU Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement  
[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/index_en.htm)

## **Instrument for pre-accession assistance – (IPA II)**

The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) is the means by which the EU supports reforms in the *'enlargement countries'* with financial and technical help. The IPA funds build up the capacities of the countries throughout the accession process, resulting in progressive, positive developments in the region.

EU pre-accession funds are a sound investment into the future of both the enlargement countries and the EU itself. They help the beneficiaries make political and economic reforms, preparing them for the rights and obligations that come with EU membership.

Those reforms should provide their citizens with better opportunities and allow for development of standards equal to the ones we enjoy as citizens of the EU. The pre-accession funds also help the EU reach its own objectives regarding a sustainable economic recovery, energy supply, transport, the environment and climate change, etc.

Pre-accession assistance is allocated for:

- public administration reform
- rule of law
- sustainable economy
- people
- agriculture and rural development

Prepared in partnership with the beneficiaries, IPA II sets a new framework for providing pre-accession assistance for the period 2014-2020.

The most important novelty of IPA II, compared to its predecessor is its strategic focus. Country Strategy Papers are the specific strategic planning documents made for each beneficiary for the 7-year period. These provide for a stronger ownership by the beneficiaries through integrating their own reform and development agendas. A Multi-Country Strategy Paper addresses priorities for regional cooperation or territorial cooperation.

IPA II targets reforms within the framework of pre-defined sectors. These sectors cover areas closely linked to the enlargement strategy, such as democracy and governance, rule of law or growth and competitiveness. This sector approach promotes structural reform that can help transform a given sector and bring it up to EU standards. It allows a move towards a more targeted assistance, ensuring efficiency, sustainability and focus on results.

IPA II also allows for a more systematic use of sector budget support. Finally, it gives more weight to performance measurement: indicators agreed with the beneficiaries help assess to what extent the expected results have been achieved.

### **Beneficiary countries**

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey.

### **Budget**

The budget is of € 11.7 for the period 2014-2020.



## Background

After Article 49 of Maastricht Treaty of 1992, each country, which respects the freedom and democracy principles human rights and the basic freedoms and the rule of law, may ask to join EU.

During a meeting held in Copenhagen in 1993, the EU Head of Governments have then established the accession criteria (Copenhagen criteria)

**Copenhagen criteria** are:

- ✚ the stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities;
- ✚ the existence of a functioning market economy and the capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union;
- ✚ the ability to take on the obligations of membership, including adherence to the aims of political, economic and monetary union and the administrative capacity to effectively apply and implement the acquis.

In addition to the typical Copenhagen criteria, **for the programming period 2014-2020**, the candidate countries must also **be ready to face the world challenges** such as:

- ✚ sustainable development
- ✚ climate change
- ✚ the ability to assume the EU efforts to face such challenges



## For further information

- ✚ European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement negotiations  
[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/instruments/overview/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/instruments/overview/index_en.htm)
- ✚ TWINNING and SIGMA  
[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/neighbourhood-wide/twinning-taix-and-sigma/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/neighbourhood-wide/twinning-taix-and-sigma/index_en.htm)
- ✚ TAIEX  
[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/tenders/taix/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/tenders/taix/index_en.htm)

## **European Neighbourhood Instrument - (ENI)**

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) governs the EU's relations with 16 of the EU's closest Eastern and Southern Neighbours. To the South: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia and to the East: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Russia takes part in Cross-Border Cooperation activities under the ENP and is not a part of the ENP as such.

The ENP was launched in 2003 and was developed throughout 2004, with the objective of avoiding the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and its neighbours and instead strengthening the prosperity, stability and security of all. It is based on the values of democracy, rule of law and respect of human rights.

The ENP was last reviewed in 2011, following the 'Arab Spring' uprisings. The objective of the reviewed ENP is to support partners who undertake reform towards democracy, rule of law and human rights, to contribute to their inclusive economic development and to promote a partnership with societies alongside EU relations with governments. It also aims to strengthen cooperation in the political and security spheres, to support economic and social development and to create economic growth and jobs.

Under the reviewed ENP, the incentive-based approach ('more-for-more') applies, under which the EU aims to develop stronger partnerships with those neighbours that make more progress towards democratic reform.

Given the significant developments in the Neighbourhood since 2011, it is now essential to also undertake a fundamental review of the principles on which the policy is based as well as its scope and how instruments should be used. Therefore, a Joint Consultation paper by the European Commission and the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy was adopted on 4 March 2015, setting out key questions for discussion with partners and stakeholders. A Joint Communication setting out proposals for the future direction of the ENP will follow in autumn 2015.

### **Main elements of the new ENI**

- application of differentiation and the "more for more" principle: this principle is the key aspect of the renewed Neighbourhood policy, and allows the EU to increase its support significantly for those partners that are genuinely implementing a broad and comprehensive democratisation process. It provides for a much higher level of differentiation in the cooperation with partner countries, reflecting their commitment to universal values, progress in deep democratisation and jointly agreed objectives. It allows the EU to better adjust its assistance to the partner countries' needs and progress;
- reducing the complexity and length of the programming process. This has been done in order to streamline, shorten and better focus the programming so support can be delivered faster to our ENP partner countries;
- streamlining the scope of the Instrument through focusing EU cooperation on the key policy objectives set out in particular in the ENP action plans agreed with the partners. This makes EU support more relevant and more efficient. Objectives include in particular promoting human rights, fundamental freedoms, stronger and more inclusive growth, and support to in the progressive economic integration into the EU internal market. Other key areas include promoting confidence building and other measures that contribute to security and the prevention and settlement of conflicts. Support for increased people-to-people contacts, sectoral cooperation (**e.g. energy and climate change**) and civil society organisations also figure prominently;
- amending the provisions on the Cross-Border Cooperation programme. Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) programmes aim at reinforcing cooperation between Member States and partner countries along the external border of the European Union. The programmes promote economic and social development in border areas, address common challenges, ensure efficient and secure borders and

- promote people-to-people cooperation. The new provisions will facilitate effective and fast implementation of the programmes, which will benefit participating EU Member States and partner countries and their citizens;
- promoting closer links with EU internal instruments and policies. This is done notably by promoting mechanisms for the pooling of funds from internal and external instruments of the EU budget. The aim is to enable partner countries and their citizens to participate in successful EU internal programmes in areas such as student mobility, youth programmes or support to Civil Society, while improving the efficiency and simplification of the implementation of assistance;
  - responding to the evolving relationship with Russia by amending provisions on Russia's eligibility for ENI funding to reflect the specific status of Russia as an EU neighbour and strategic partner. Russia's eligibility for regional and Cross-Border Cooperation programmes is retained in the new ENI, but bilateral cooperation will be addressed in the future under the new Partnership Instrument;
  - simplifying and mainstreaming the implementation provisions within a new Implementing Regulation common to all EU external assistance instruments.

The vast majority of ENI funding is used for bilateral cooperation, tailor-made to each Neighbourhood partner country. A key element in this context are the bilateral ENP Action Plans (AP)s which are mutually agreed between the EU and each partner country. The AP sets out an agenda of political and economic reforms with short and medium-term priorities and serves as the political framework guiding the priorities for cooperation. Priorities of bilateral cooperation include good governance (incl. justice and security), sustainable economic development (incl. trade, transport, energy and environment) and social and human development (incl. education, health, people-to-people contacts and civil society).

### **Regional, Neighbourhood-wide and Cross-Border Cooperation programmes**

In addition to bilateral cooperation, ENI funding also supports regional, Neighbourhood-wide and Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) programmes. These programmes are designed to complement the bilateral cooperation programmes.

- ✓ **Regional cooperation programmes** tackle challenges with a regional dimension and promote interstate co-operation on issues of mutual interest in the different regions of the ENP (regional programmes Southern Neighbourhood & regional programmes Eastern Neighbourhood).
- ✓ **Neighbourhood-wide cooperation programmes** benefits countries of both geographical ENP regions. It includes a variety of programmes and instruments such as the Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF), which pools grants and risk capital with loans provided by European Financial Institutions for projects in the fields of: energy, transport infrastructure, the environment and assistance to small and medium enterprises. Other Neighbourhood-wide cooperation programmes are Technical Assistance and Improvement of Exchange of Institutions (TAIEX), Support for Improvement in Governance and Management (SIGMA) and Twinning programmes.
- ✓ **Cross Border Cooperation (CBC)** promotes economic development and addressing the shared challenges such as the health, environment education in border areas between EU Member States and ENP partner countries.

### **Support to Civil Society**

A key element of the revised ENP is to strengthen and promote the role of civil society actors in reforms and democratic changes taking place in the Neighbourhood countries through increased financial support and capacity building. In particular, local civil society organisations and their capacity to engage with public authorities are being strengthened.

In addition to support for civil society under the ENI bilateral and regional cooperation programmes, various additional EU initiatives and programmes also support civil society in the ENP region, such as the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the Non-State Actors and Local Authorities thematic programme (NSA-LA) and the ENI Civil Society Facility.



## Beneficiary countries

- *in the South*: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia;
- *in the East*: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Russia takes part in Cross-Border Cooperation activities under the ENP and is not a part of the ENP as such.

## Budget

The budget for the new ENI is €15.4 billion for the period 2014-2020.



### For further information

- ✚ European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement negotiations  
[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/overview/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/overview/index_en.htm)
- ✚ TWINNING and SIGMA  
[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/neighbourhood-wide/twinning-taiex-and-sigma/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/neighbourhood/neighbourhood-wide/twinning-taiex-and-sigma/index_en.htm)
- ✚ TAIEX  
[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/tenders/taiex/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/tenders/taiex/index_en.htm)

## **Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)**

The DCI covers, through its different programmes all the developing countries except the countries eligible for the Pre-Accession Instrument. The geographic programmes under the DCI cover developing countries in Asia, Central Asia, Middle East, Latin America, and South Africa.

Objectives and general principles of the DCI have been formulated in line with the Lisbon Treaty and the latest policies, notably the 'Agenda for Change' of EU development policy.

Its prime objective is the reduction of poverty, but it aims also to contribute to the achievement of other goals of EU external action, in particular fostering sustainable economic, social and environmental development as well as promoting democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights.

The main elements of DCI are:

- *geographic programmes*: which support bilateral and regional cooperation with developing countries in several areas such as human rights, democracy, good governance and sustainable growth for human development and many other priorities relevant to each region;
- *thematic programmes* which are split into two categories:
  - *'Global public goods and challenges (GPGC)'*: which address the main global public goods and challenges, notably climate change, environment, energy, human development, food security and migration while ensuring coherence with the poverty reduction objective. No less than 25% of this programme has to be spent on climate change and environment objectives. At least 20% of the programme has to support social inclusion and human development.
  - *'Civil society organisations and local authorities (CSO-LA)'*: which provides greater support to civil society and local authorities to encourage these actors to play a bigger role in development strategies.

The DCI also includes a *new Pan-African programme* to support the implementation of Joint Africa-Europe Strategy. This programme complement other financial instruments, which are applied in Africa (in particular ENI and EDF) and support activities of trans-regional and continental nature in Africa and specific initiatives.

This program uses a differentiated approach, which reflects needs, capacities and performance of partner countries, and targets EU development cooperation where it can have most impact. The programme also gives priority to the countries most in need, in particular the least developed countries, low-income countries and countries in crisis, post-crisis, fragile and vulnerable situation.

## **Beneficiary countries**

The entities eligible for funding are:

- partner countries and regions, and their institutions
- decentralised bodies in the partner countries (municipalities, provinces, departments and regions),
- joint bodies set up by the partner countries and regions with the Community,
- Non State Actors,
- international organisations,
- EU agencies.

In case of call for proposals and tenders: each of them will specify in related documents the eligibility criteria for that specific call or tender.

The countries involved are: Latin America, South Asia, North and South-East Asia, Central Asia, Middle East, other countries most in need.

## Budget

The budget for the DCI is € 19,662 million for the period 2014 - 2020 (around 21.5% of total EU aid). The largest share of DCI's budget, €11.8 billion, is allocated to the geographical programmes. The rest goes to the budget for the CSO-LA, GPGC and pan-African programmes.



### For further information

- ✚ Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development  
[https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/development-cooperation-instrument-dci-2014-2020-multi-annual-indicative-regional-programme-latin\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/development-cooperation-instrument-dci-2014-2020-multi-annual-indicative-regional-programme-latin_en)
- ✚ DCI Instrument  
[https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/funding/funding-instruments-programming/funding-instruments/development-cooperation-instrument-dci\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/funding/funding-instruments-programming/funding-instruments/development-cooperation-instrument-dci_en)

## **The European Development Fund (EDF)**

Created in 1957 by the Treaty of Rome and launched in 1959, the European Development Fund (EDF) is the EU's main instrument for providing development aid to African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and to overseas countries and territories (OCTs). It funds cooperation activities in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries in the fields of economic development, social and human development, regional cooperation and integration. It is financed by direct contributions from EU Member States according to a contribution key and is covered by its own financial rules.

Although the 11th EDF remains outside of the EU budget, the negotiations in the Council of Ministers on the different elements of the 11th EDF have taken place in parallel with the negotiations of the external Instruments financed under the budget, to ensure consistency.

In the field of the external actions of the European Union, the applicable legislation is composed in particular by the international agreement of Cotonou for the aid financed from the European Development Fund, by the basic regulations related to the different cooperation programmes adopted by the Council and the European Parliament, and by the financial regulations.

The 11th EDF was created by an intergovernmental agreement signed in June 2013 – as it is not part of the EU Budget – and entered into force on the 1st March 2015, after ratification by all Member States. In order to ensure continuity of funding for cooperation with ACPs and OCTs, a 'Bridging Facility' was set-up to cover the period between the end of the 10th EDF (December 2013) and the start of the 11th EDF (March 2015). This 'Bridging Facility' ceased to exist when the 11th EDF entered into force.

There are only minor modifications in the 11th EDF compared to the 10th EDF. Mainly, Member States' contributions keys to the Fund are further aligned with the keys used for the EU budget. Furthermore, it aims to ensure more flexibility and fast reaction in case of unexpected events. Regional funding also includes allocations to cover unforeseen needs with a regional dimension and a new shock-absorbing scheme is set up to help ACP countries to mitigate the short-term effects of exogenous shocks such as economic crisis or natural disaster.

### **Beneficiary countries**


The EDF covers cooperation with African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries (ACPs), Overseas Countries, and Territories (OCTs).

### **Budget**

The total financial resources of the 11th EDF amount to €30.5 billion for the period 2014-2020.



**For further information**

 General Directorate International Cooperation and Development  
<https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/node/1079>

## **Partnership Instrument (PI)**

The Partnership Instrument is the main innovative instrument in the external action package. Its overall objective is to advance and promote EU interests by supporting the external dimension of EU internal policies (e.g. competitiveness, research and innovation, migration) and by addressing major global challenges (e.g. energy security, climate change and environment). The external projection of the "Europe 2020" Strategy represents a major strategic component of this Instrument.

The Partnership Instrument also addresses specific aspects of the EU's economic diplomacy with a view to improving access to third country markets by boosting trade, investment and business opportunities for European companies. It supports public diplomacy, people-to-people contacts, academic cooperation and outreach activities to promote the Union's values and interests.

The Partnership Instrument offers a different approach to established models of development co-operation to promote policy co-operation.

It focuses in particular on countries for which the EU has a strategic interest in promoting links. This includes countries which play an increasingly prominent role in global affairs, international economy and trade, multilateral fora and global governance and in addressing challenges of global concern or where the Union has other significant interests. The Instrument also underpins new relationships with countries, which are graduating from bilateral development aid.

The Partnership Instrument should allow the EU to develop and engage in an overarching political dialogue with key partner countries. Its global reach and flexibility are essential elements to enable the Union to respond to the fast changing nature of partner countries and to key policy global challenges.

### **Beneficiary countries**

It particularly focuses on industrialised countries, emerging economies (aimed at strengthening the dialogue with countries like India, China and Brasil), countries where the EU has significant interests.

### **Budget**

The PI's budget for 2014-2020 amounts to EUR 954.8 million. It can fund activities in any non-EU country, with an emphasis on partner countries of strategic interest to the EU.

## **Other opportunities**


### **European Networks**

#### **Polis**

Polis is a network of European cities and regions working together to develop innovative technologies and policies for local transport. Since 1989, European local and regional authorities have been working together within Polis to promote sustainable mobility through the deployment of innovative transport solutions.



**For further information**

 Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI)  
[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/fpi/what-we-do/partnership\\_instrument\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/fpi/what-we-do/partnership_instrument_en.htm)

Its aim is to improve local transport through integrated strategies that address the economic, social and environmental dimensions of transport. To this end, Polis supports the exchange of experiences and the transfer of knowledge between European local and regional authorities. It also facilitates the dialogue between local and regional authorities and other actors of the sector such as industry, research centres and universities, and NGOs.

Polis fosters cooperation and partnerships across Europe with the aim of making research and innovation in transport accessible to cities and regions. The network and its secretariat actively support the participation of Polis members in European projects. Polis participation in European projects allows them to create a framework which facilitates dialogue and exchange between local authorities and the transport research community.

In Polis, decision makers are provided with the necessary information and tools for making sustainable mobility a reality. Within the Political Group of Polis, they formulate recommendations to the European institutions.

The activities of Polis are organised around the four thematic pillars of a sustainable urban and regional transport policy:

- Environment and Health in Transport
- Mobility and Traffic Efficiency
- Transport Safety and Security
- Social and Economic Aspects of Transport

Polis members meet regularly in working groups organised in the framework of these pillars. The network is currently chaired by Dresden and has a permanent secretariat located in Brussels.

<http://www.polisnetwork.eu/about/about-polis>

## **European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL)**

IMPEL, the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law, is an international association of environmental authorities in Europe. The network is committed to contribute to a more effective application of EU environmental law by capacity building, awareness raising, sharing good practices, providing guidance and tools, enforcement cooperation and giving feed-back to lawmakers and regulators on the practicability and enforceability of environmental legislation.

<http://impel.eu/>

## **European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET)**

Eionet is a partnership network of the European Environment Agency (EEA) and its member and cooperating countries involving approximately 1000 experts and more than 350 national institutions. The network supports the collection and organisation of data and the development and dissemination of information concerning Europe's environment <http://www.eionet.europa.eu/>

## **European Network of the Heads of Environment Protection Agencies (EPA)**

The EPA Network is an informal grouping bringing together the heads and directors of environment protection agencies and similar bodies across Europe. The Network exchanges views and experiences on issues of common interest to organisations involved in the practical day-to-day implementation of environmental policy.

<http://epanet.ea.eea.europa.eu/>

## ***Other opportunities***

### **Road safety**

In the web page of the DG Mobility and Transport of the European Commission are published also call for proposals and grants which do not belong to a specific community programme, such as grants devoted to Road safety.

The call for proposals can be consulted at the following web site:

[http://ec.europa.eu/transport/grants/2011\\_09\\_30\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/grants/2011_09_30_en.htm)

### **Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme (AAL JP)**

With a total Budget of €700 million the Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme (AAL JP) is an initiative under Article 185 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. AAL JP is a funding activity that aims to create better condition of life for the older adults and to strengthen the industrial opportunities in Europe using information and communication technology (ICT).

It carries out its mandate through the funding of cross-national projects that involve small and medium enterprises (SME), research bodies and user's organizations (representing the older adults). It aims to:

- give older adults access to more and better products and services for ageing well. These will help them to keep living independently in their own homes and to participate in economy and society for more years;
- create a larger market for industry and especially SMEs at European level and improve EU competitiveness in ICT based products and services for ageing well;
- make researchers benefit from collaboration with other experts at European scale;
- help governments gain cost efficiencies and increased sustainability of health and social care, while tackling the societal challenge of demographic ageing.

The AAL JP aims to combine social, technological and business aspects to deliver:

- new models of service delivery and care that contribute to greater self-reliance for older adults and greater support for informal carers;
- adapted living spaces that can improve the quality of their everyday lives;
- new ways for older people to remain active, including contributing as volunteers or providing mutual support;
- new ways of mobilising active and trusted networks, both formal and informal, professional and in kind, to provide all types of support.

The maximum funding from the AAL Joint Programme: €3 million. Total budgets for projects should range between €1 million - 7 million.

The programme beneficiaries are EU private sector, academic institutions and research centers

More information are available on the devoted web site:

<http://www.aal-europe.eu/>