

# JASPERS in the 2014-2020 programming period

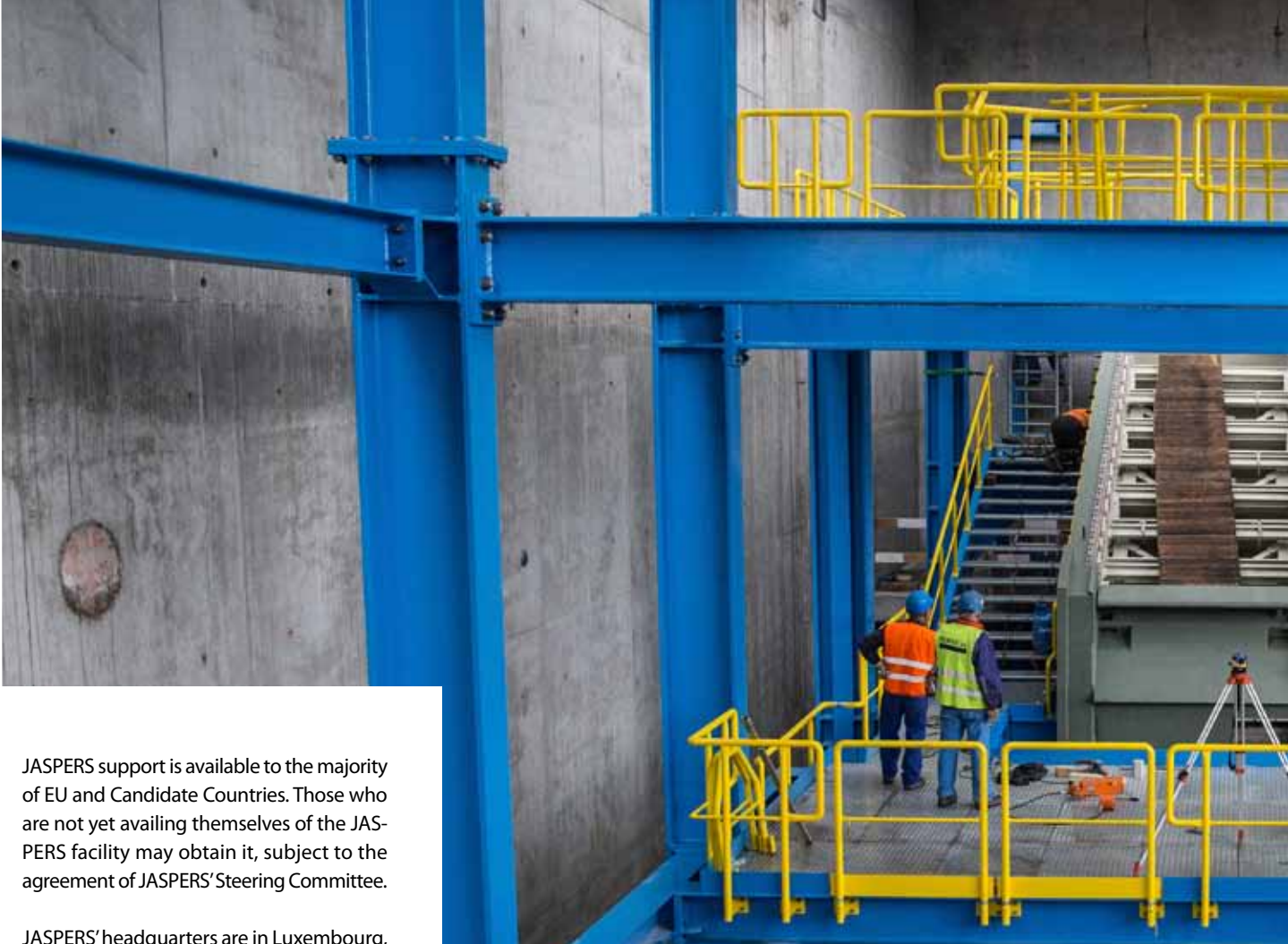
## JASPERS at a glance

**JASPERS is a technical assistance** partnership between DG Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

It is an important instrument of EU Cohesion Policy established in late 2005.



JASPERS provides independent expert advice and capacity building support to public authorities and final beneficiaries on how to plan, develop and implement high quality major projects to be co-financed by European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), as well as programmes and sector strategies that deliver EU policy objectives.



JASPERS support is available to the majority of EU and Candidate Countries. Those who are not yet availing themselves of the JASPERS facility may obtain it, subject to the agreement of JASPERS' Steering Committee.

JASPERS' headquarters are in Luxembourg, but the majority of its experts are based in regional offices (Brussels, Bucharest, Sofia, Vienna and Warsaw).

As at 30 June 2015, **435** JASPERS-supported applications were approved by the EU for a total cost of **EUR 71.7bn**, of which **EUR 42.4bn** in EU grants



### JASPERS support for major projects between 2006-2015

Source : JASPERS Database	Total 2006 to 2015	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015*
Number of assignments completed	918	3	22	82	133	159	142	117	139	107	14
Number of JASPERS-supported applications submitted to DG REGIO	469	0	5	30	59	86	63	70	78	64	14
Number of JASPERS-supported applications approved by DG REGIO	435	0	0	10	35	58	68	53	86	80	45

\* as at 30/06/2015

## Priorities in the 2014-2020 programming period

In the 2014-2020 programming period, JASPERS will offer three types of service:

■ **Project preparation support and strategic advice** – JASPERS' experts provide project preparation support, from the identification of projects to the submission of the request for EU finance:

- Advice on the preparation of sector strategies and upstream project screening to assess their viability and suitability for EU finance (for example, comments and guidance on master plans, assistance with developing project concepts and preparing terms of reference to select consultants)
- support for the preparation of grouped investment schemes to meet particular policy objectives, such as the energy efficiency of buildings
- review of project feasibility studies and recommendations for improvement
- review of reports by consultants and recommendations for improvement
- sector-specific knowledge of best practices in engineering, economics, the environment and related EU policies and directives
- review of the project application and annexes before submission to the European Commission.



**Cohesion policy** will make available up to **EUR 351.8bn** to invest in Europe's regions, cities and the real economy in the 2014-2020 programming period.



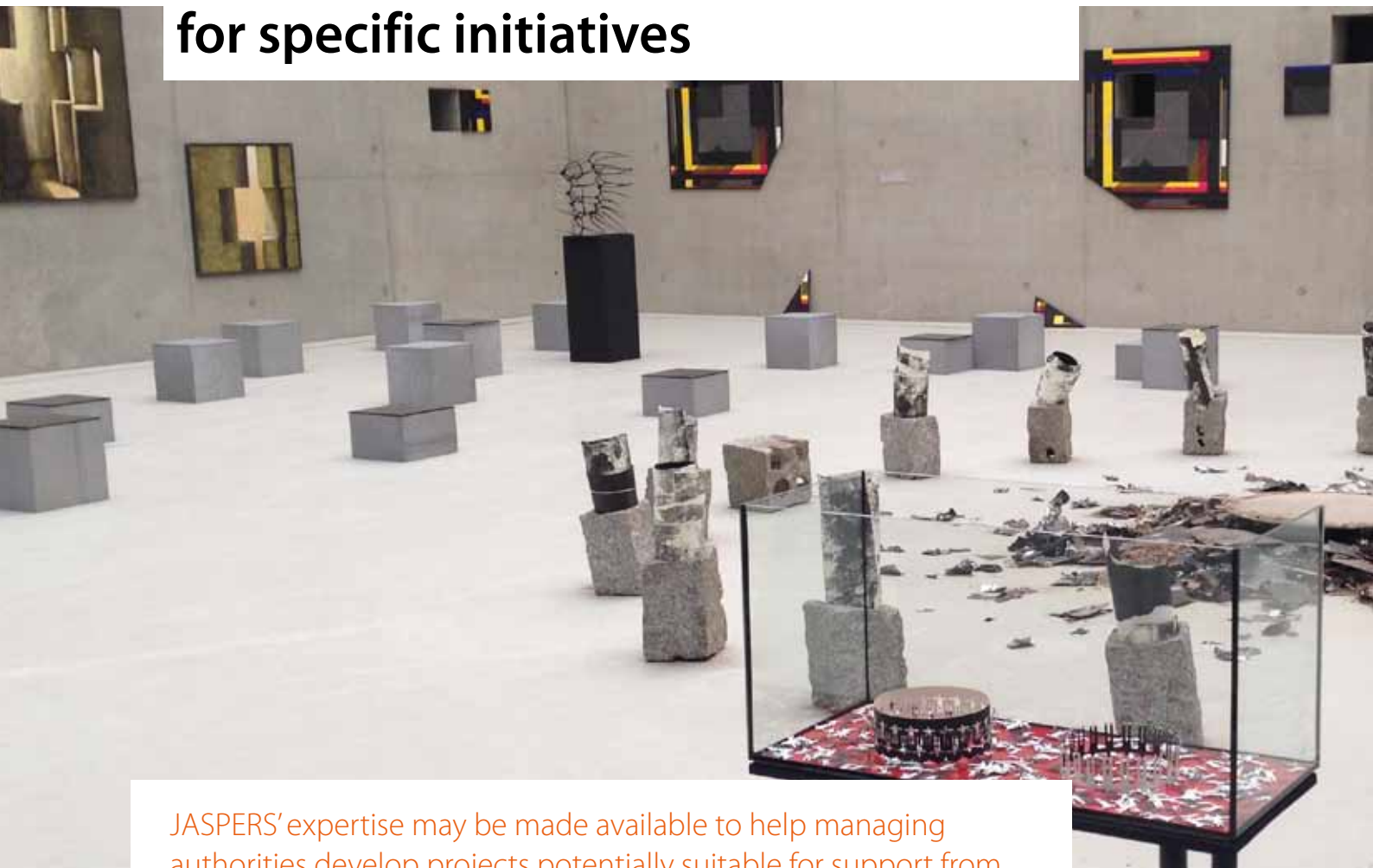
**JASPERS IQR function** is available to all Member States which intend to use EU Structural and Investment Funds to support major projects

■ **Training, thematic support and Networking** – JASPERS provides capacity building support and advice on horizontal issues, such as Cost-benefit analysis (CBA), state aid or EIA, relevant to more than one project or more than one country. This is delivered by the Networking Platform and Competence Centre by means of training,

seminars, webinars, videos, an electronic library, facilitated discussion fora, Communities of Practice, and any other actions and events that promote knowledge sharing and capacity building. Participation in Networking Platform activities is open to relevant authorities from all Member States and Candidate Countries.

■ **Independent Quality Review (IQR)** – JASPERS can provide the independent quality review of major projects made available as an option for Member States in the Common Provisions Regulation. The IQR function will be available to all Member States which intend to use EU Structural and Investment Funds to support major projects.

## EU policy support for specific initiatives



JASPERS' expertise may be made available to help managing authorities develop projects potentially suitable for support from the European Fund for Strategic Investments

### Governance

JASPERS is governed by a Steering Committee that represents the partners: DG Regional and Urban Policy, the EIB and the EBRD. The Steering Committee decides JASPERS' strategic direction, organisation and resource allocation.

### Organisation

JASPERS is a separate unit within the EIB, with its own organisational structure and separate accounting. The Head of JASPERS is responsible for its results and reports to the Steering Committee. JASPERS is organised into divisions on the basis of sectors and functions, with experts from each division located across the regional offices according to their main countries of focus. JASPERS adopts a flexible approach to resource allocation to meet changing demands both across sectors and between sector divisions and the IQR and NCC divisions.

## Our clients

Our potential clients are all stakeholders involved in planning, preparing and delivering investment projects using EU grant funds. The primary recipients of JASPERS' advice are final beneficiaries acting as project promoters, but advice can also be requested by managing authorities and intermediate bodies.

## Our people and values

JASPERS is committed to providing consistent advice of the highest quality with integrity, professionalism, openness, teamwork and excellence.

JASPERS depends on the technical knowledge and advisory skills of its experts. The expertise and commitment of our staff is the key to realising our objectives. As an organisation, we pursue continuous improvement and life-long learning. We encourage our staff to regularly update their skills, and to share their knowledge with others.

JASPERS' staff are bound by the EIB's Staff Code of Conduct (<http://www.eib.org/infocentre/publications/all/staff-code-of-conduct.htm>)



## Our approach

JASPERS' approach is characterised by:

### ■ Demand-driven action plans,

prepared for each Member State in cooperation with the beneficiary state concerned and the European Commission. A managing authority acts as a central coordinator for each country and can request assistance from JASPERS.

### ■ International expertise with local knowledge and decentralised delivery

JASPERS' assignments are delivered by teams combining international experience with in-depth appreciation of the local context. JASPERS' experts seek to share good practices throughout the EU to deliver high quality projects which are compliant with relevant EU regulations and directives. The majority of staff are located close to their main clients in offices in Bucharest, Sofia, Vienna and Warsaw. The Independent Quality Review division is based in Brussels.

### ■ Complementing traditional consultancy

JASPERS helps clients to get better value from the consultants that they hire with their own technical assistance budgets by working in partnership with final beneficiaries, managing authorities and the European Commission to define needs and approaches to delivering projects and capacity building activities.

### ■ Free to final beneficiaries

Core funding for JASPERS support for cohesion policy comes from DG REGIO's technical assistance budget under ESIF. Funding may also come from other policy DGs or from managing authorities' own technical assistance budgets. However, in every case, assistance to final beneficiaries to develop their projects will be made available free of charge.

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