



Policy framework for cohesion policy funds 2021-2027





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Cohesion policy in the European Green Deal



“Cohesion Funds play a crucial role in supporting our regions and rural areas from East to West, from South to North to keep up with the transformations of our world.

In this transition, we must recognise and respect that we do not all start from the same point. We all share the same ambition but some may need more tailored support than others to get there.”

-  Investing in place-based innovation and smart economic transformation
-  Deploying technological and social innovation on a large scale
-  Facilitating phase-out of unsustainable practices
-  Ensuring a just transition for all regions

A transformative agenda adapted to different starting points

This is what we need our programmes to do better:

- Develop a **vision** of a sustainable future, and formulate **pathways**
- Put in place a system of proactive **governance** to manage the transition
- Support **innovation** to develop sustainable solutions
- Support **deployment** of innovation, and **phase-out** of unsustainable practices
- Ensure a **just transition** so that the transformation benefits everyone
- Apply specific **territorial approaches** to the delivery of the Green Deal (e.g. cities, rural areas, coal regions)
- **Mainstream sustainability** into programmes and projects

<https://europa.eu/!Tc67vw>

Cohesion Policy Objectives



A smarter Europe (innovative & smart economic transformation)



A greener, low-carbon Europe (including energy transition, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk management)



A more connected Europe (mobility)



A more social Europe (the European Pillar of Social Rights)



A Europe closer to citizens (sustainable development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives)



- Develop solutions
- Testing, piloting, demonstration
- Tech transfer



Deploy solutions in public & private sector

Priorities for investment

Innovation (SO 1.1)

- pilot lines, early product validation
- technology transfer, including via science – business collaboration
- development, provision and diffusion of advanced technologies, including advanced digital technologies
- development and testing of innovative technologies and solutions for green transitions and circular economy
- business investment in R&I

Digitalisation (SO 1.2)

- ICT uptake in SMEs
- B2B, B2C, C2C
- e-health, e-learning, e-skilling, e-government

Sustainable water management (SO 2.5)

- access to water services (drinking water supply, and waste water collection and treatment)
- leakage reduction of water networks
- efficiency measures (incl. metering and volumetric charging)
- improvement of water networks through renewal, e.g. to reduce infiltration of pollutants into the network
- improvement monitoring network and capacity-building

Higher ambitions for long-term transition

- What we expect
 - Programming according to priorities expressed in European Semester Country Reports
 - Reflecting on the link between innovation and deployment
 - Enabling conditions: not a paper exercise, but a strategic framework for achieving long-term ambitions
 - ‘Do no harm’: taking environmental assessments seriously, sustainable project selection criteria, etc.
- What we aim for
 - Using programming as opportunity to formulate pathways for long-term transitions
 - Transformational change instead of marginal efficiency gains
 - Thinking beyond 2027 to avoid lock-ins (e.g. energy sources, waste management)
 - Integrating elements of the European Green Deal into programmes
 - Nature-based solutions to avoid negative impact of grey infrastructure and to achieve co-benefits
 - Exploiting full potential of cohesion policy to ensure a just transition

Next steps: working together to optimise impact



Strong partnership:
involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the preparation of cohesion policy programmes



Strong programmes:
objective setting, types of actions, synergies, funding, outputs and results



Awareness raising, coordination and cooperation between national and regional actors

Thank you



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More Information



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