



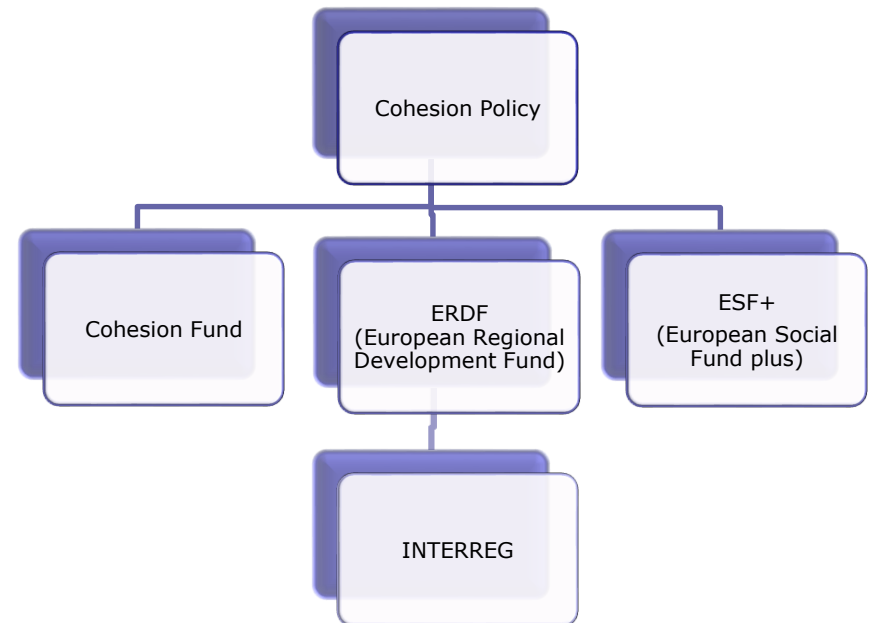
# **Embedding EUSDR objectives and actions into EU Cohesion Policy funds**

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## **Cohesion Policy 2021-2027: Programming process in 2020 (2021)**

- 2019 European Semester Country Reports and in particular their Annexes D (on Cohesion Policy) are taken into account for Partnership Agreements and programmes, which specify investment priorities.
- National and/or regional programming processes for Cohesion Policy funds are launched or ongoing in 2020: decision on Policy objectives and Investment priorities on national and/or regional level.
- Mid-term review proposed to check whether changes to the programmes should be made for the last 2 years.



# Cohesion Policy 2021-2027: Policy objectives

- *A smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation*
- *A **greener, low-carbon Europe** by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management*
- *A **more connected Europe** by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity*
- *A **more social Europe** implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights*
- *A **Europe closer to citizens** by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives.*

# Cohesion Policy 2021-2027:

## Content of programmes

### Article 17 (3) of proposed REG (2018)375 (new CPR):

“Each programme shall set out:

**(a)** a summary of the main challenges, taking into account: (vi) **macro-regional strategies** [...] where Member States and regions participate in such strategies”;

**(d)** for each specific objective: (v) the interregional and transnational actions with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State;...”

# Cohesion Policy 2021-2027: Eligibility

## Article 57 (4) of new CPR:

- “All or part of an operation may be implemented outside of a Member State, including outside the Union, provided that the operation contributes to the objectives of the programme”.

Why? To facilitate “embedding” cooperation in Cohesion Policy “mainstream” programmes in favour of Macro-regional strategies.

# 2019 European Semester Country Reports: Annexes D on EUSDR

Source: 2019 European Semester Country Reports: Annexes D for TN cooperation and under EUSDR

Member State	PO 1 A smarter Europe	PO2 A greener, low carbon Europe	PO3 A more connected Europe	PO4 A more social Europe	PO5 A Europe closer to citizens
<b>Austria</b>	Smart specialization + new value chains.				Cooperation between cities.
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Networks + consolidation of clusters.	International programmes.	Danube: navigability + river information services + environmental protection + transport connections (bridges or ferries).		
<b>Croatia</b>	Collaboration + Technology transfer + commercialization of research.		TEN-T cross-border projects.		
<b>Czechia</b>	Participate in industry led and research driven clusters.				
<b>Germany</b>		Nature based adaptation and risk prevention measures.			
<b>Hungary</b>	R&I capacities and new technologies. SME competitiveness + internationalization. Skills for smart specialization + industrial transition + entrepreneurship.	Renewable energies in heating + cooling. Climate adaptation + risk prevention + management.	Danube navigability.		
<b>Romania</b>	Transnational clusters + joint research and education programmes. SME innovation capacity.	Risk prevention + climate change + natural risks. Biodiversity + green urban infrastructure + pollution.	Danube navigability + TEN-T bridges + ferries.		
<b>Slovakia</b>	Higher education (schools + enterprises).	Risk prevention		Learning + excellence in VET and higher education.	
<b>Slovenia</b>	SME competitiveness + internationalization + innovation.	Flood prevention + risk management.	TEN-T network.		

# How can the EUSDR connect?

## Timeline:

“Mainstream” Cohesion Policy programmes shall be elaborated and agreed internally by Member States and/or regions by end of 2020, depending on:

- a)** Political agreement on the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027 of the European Union
- b)** Agreement on the legal framework (Cohesion Policy regulations)

**The time is now**  
to liase with programme authorities!



## ... How can the EUSDR connect?

Challenge: Programming process is organized differently in each Member State or region

**Engagement of Steering Group members in national programming process is needed**

- ✓ Meet with your ERDF and ESF+ Managing Authority, or the bodies in charge of CEF, etc. -> **build a network**
- ✓ Involve your EUSDR National Coordinator (political coordination and backing)

# ... How can the EUSDR connect?

## Building a network

1. On the national level the network should include at least NC, SG members, Managing Authority
2. On the transnational level: Danube Network of Managing Authorities
  - Already emerging for ESF
  - Similarly needed for the ERDF; starting point could be a small number of emblematic, concrete projects (e.g. water quality, transport)
  - Building on experience from the EUSBSR

## **... How can the EUSDR connect?**

### **Agreeing on actions**

- ✓ Try to find common objectives and actions with your national / regional programme
- ✓ The revised Action Plan provides a good basis for agreed and coordinated transnational actions (provides a “project pipeline”)

## ... How can the EUSDR connect?

**What could it look like?** Types of projects (non-exhaustive):

- Joint projects: Several programmes are funding one single project ("single pot of money").
  - **Example: Feasibility study: joint fund for research**
- Coordinated projects: Several programmes are funding a group of coherent projects to meet the same goal ("cumulative effect")
  - **Examples: reduction of discharge of phosphates in the Danube; biodiversity; etc.**

## ... How can the EUSDR connect?

- Complementary projects: several programmes are funding different parts / phases of a project
  - **Example: Feasibility study “WePass”**
- Single project: A programme is funding a project (also) for the direct benefit of the EUSDR, in line with EUSDR actions.
  - **Examples: updating infrastructure like multimodality of ports; measures to improve navigability on the Danube river**

## ... How can the EUSDR connect?

- Ex-post labelling: Projects already funded under one programme are labelled as contributing to the EUSDR – (is this really embedding?)

BUT IT IS NOT ONLY PROJECTS:

- Governance, Harmonization of regulations, forms etc. **Example: Joint PA 1a & PA 11 project to introduce « DAVID » forms**

# ... How can the EUSDR connect?

## Practical steps for Cohesion Policy “mainstream” programmes:

- ✓ Earmarking (allocate) a budget, i.e. a certain percentage of their funds for EUSDR
- ✓ Targeted calls for projects supporting the EUSDR
- ✓ Specific selection criteria (e.g. bonus points) for project proposals contributing to the EUSDR
- ✓ Bonus points to projects of EUSDR relevance
- ✓ Direct support to EUSDR projects
- ✓ Participation of EUSDR representatives in monitoring committees
- ✓ Labelling of EUSDR projects (ex-post)
- ✓ Transfer of funds from ERDF to ETC (Article 17(3) proposed ETC REG (2018) 374) with separate priority in ERDF programme

## ... How can the EUSDR connect?

Mapping of possible funds available:

### ➤ ***Cohesion Policy Funds:***

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)

Cohesion Fund (CF)

European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

### ➤ **Other Union instruments:**

Instrument for Pre-accession assistance (IPA III)

Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)

## ... **How can the EUSDR connect?**

... more possible funds available:

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)

Single Market Programme

Horizon Europe (research)

Life+ (environment)

Invest Europe

European Investment Bank



# Arguments in favour of « embedding » EUSDR

- “Embedding” does not mean a reduction of budget available for the programmes
- Each “embedded” project benefits the territory of the national or regional programme, because otherwise it would not have been selected
- Higher EU benefit expected for such projects
- Benefits for EUSDR:
  - Experience of programme implementation
  - Contacts with policy-makers

## **... Arguments in favour of « embedding » EUSDR**

### Benefits for programmes:

- Bigger impact outside programme territory
- High-level political backing for projects
- Wider strategic frame
- Good project pipeline with improved absorption
- Higher and wider visibility by political leaders, citizens, etc.

# DG REGIO, unit D.1: Macro-regions, Transnational, Interregional Cooperation, IPA, Enlargement

*What are we doing?*

- **Manage** transnational, interregional, IPA-CBC, and ENI-CBC **programmes** in partnership with Managing authorities, Programme Monitoring Committees, and Member States/Third Countries
- Closely **cooperate with unit D.2** Interreg, Cross-Border Cooperation, Internal Borders on European territorial cooperation/**Interreg** programmes

## ... DG REGIO, unit D.1:

- *Facilitate implementation of four **Macro-regional strategies**, in close cooperation with Member States and other stakeholders*
- *Promote « **embedding** « of cooperation as new horizontal objective for 2021-2027 in **all** programmes:*
- *Assist geographical units in negotiations with Member States and **programme authorities***

## **... DG REGIO, unit D.1:**

- *Assess needs for support in each Member State with a view to cooperation (Annex D of Country Reports)*
- *Inform REGIO geographical units on cooperation*
- *Participate in discussions with Member States and programme authorities*
- *Screen Partnership Agreements and programmes*
- *Collect good practices / projects*
- *Provide Q+A on « embedding » cooperation*