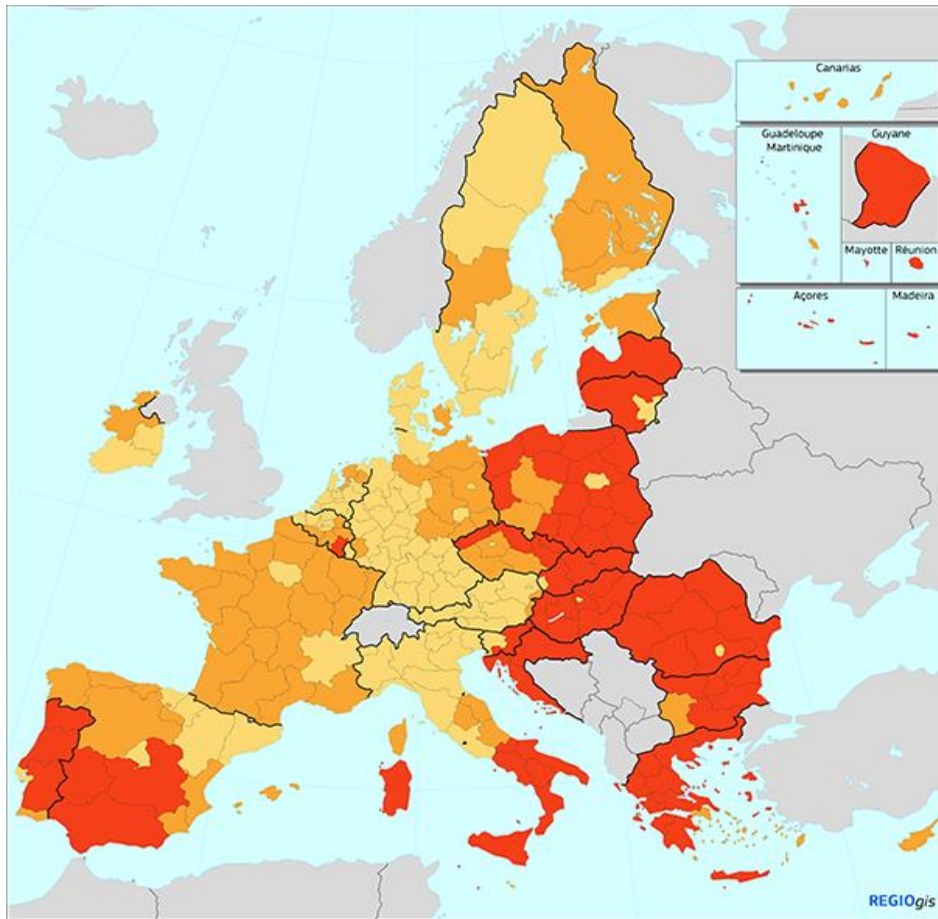




# Cohesion policy and integrated territorial development

*EU Commission  
Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy*

# Cohesion policy for all EU regions and cities



Investment for jobs and growth goal (ERDF and ESF+) eligibility, 2021-2027

Categories of regions

- Less developed regions (GDP/head (PPS) less than 75% of the EU-27 average)
- Transition regions (GDP/head (PPS) between 75% and 100% of the EU-27 average)
- More developed regions (GDP/head (PPS) above 100% of the EU-27 average)

GDP/head: average 2015-2016-2017

0 500 km

© EuroGeographics Association for the administrative boundaries

Cohesion policy contributes to strengthening **economic, social and territorial cohesion** in the European Union.

It aims to correct imbalances between countries and regions, and delivers on the Union's political priorities

- **green and digital transition**

Cohesion policy 2021-2027 EUR 392 billion:

- 1) Investment for jobs and growth goal
- 2) Interreg - European Territorial Cooperation goal

## Cohesion policy - EU's main investment policy delivered through specific funds

- The **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**, to invest in the social and economic development of all EU regions and cities.
  - The **Cohesion Fund (CF)**, to invest in environment and transport in the less prosperous EU countries.
  - The **European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)**, to support jobs and create a fair and socially inclusive society in EU countries.
  - The **Just Transition Fund (JTF)** to support the regions most affected by the transition towards climate neutrality.
- *In cooperation with the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), other EU policies*

# Territorial dimension in the legal framework 2021-2027

## Common Provisions

### Regulation (links with other EU funds)

- Policy objectives
- Territorial development with requirements for integrated territorial development and tools to use:
  - ITI
  - CLLD
  - Another tool (recognises nationally developed tools for integrated territorial strategies)

## ERDF/CF Regulation

- Specific objectives with urban/territorial dimension (Policy Objective 5 'Europe closer to citizens')
- Sustainable urban development (min. 8% ERDF) accompanied by European Urban Initiative.

## ESF+ Regulation

- contributes to territorial and local development strategies in view of tackling the socioeconomic inequalities in cities and regions

## Interreg regulation

- Interregional cooperation
  - Including URBACT and ESPON programmes

### Links with:

- Leipzig Charter/Urban Agenda
- Territorial Agenda
- Other EU Funds and instruments

# Cohesion policy 2021-27 framework - basis for programming investments at national, regional and local level



1. **A smarter Europe:** promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity



2. **A greener, low-carbon transitioning** towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe



3. **A more connected Europe** by enhancing mobility



4. **A more social and inclusive Europe** implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights



5. **A Europe closer to citizens Europe closer to citizens** by fostering sustainable and integrated development of **all types of territories** and local initiatives

- integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and security



# Cohesion policy 2021-27: harmonised framework for integrated territorial development

- Harmonised framework for territorial and local strategies, **dedicated policy objective 5 and territorial delivery mechanism**
- **Specific method and minimum requirements for strategies:** geographical area, analysis of needs and potential, integrated multi-thematic strategy, partnership involvement - under the responsibility of relevant territorial authorities or bodies
- At least 8% of ERDF to sustainable urban development strategies, with recommended focus on functional urban areas. **Non-urban territorial strategies** invited to target rural, mountainous, insular, sparsely populated areas etc., urban-rural linkages
- **Territorial delivery mechanisms to use** for both urban and other areas:
  - Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI)
  - Community-led Local Development (CLLD)
  - Another tool - recognising nationally developed tools

# 'Europe closer to citizens' approach to territorial and local development

Entails a **specific method** of integrated territorial development requiring territorial or local development strategies that are place-based, integrated, and involve relevant partners in preparation and implementation of the strategy, under the responsibility of relevant territorial authority/body.

For urban areas:  
Minimum 8% of  
ERDF at national  
level

European Urban Initiative (EUI) -  
capacity building and knowledge

Urban-rural  
linkages, functional  
areas



**New: Policy Objective 5** - a “cross-cutting **territorial policy objective**” for integrated and sustainable development of urban and non-urban territories

**Territorial tools to use:**  
ITI, CLLD or another territorial tool (national)

## More information:

- [Handbook of Territorial and Local Development Strategies and SAT4TER](#)
- [Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies and SAT4SUD](#)
- [JRC Strat-board: mapping of territorial strategies](#)
- [Rural toolkit](#) on EU funding opportunities

# Thank you

**Links:**

**EU Cohesion Policy:** [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/policy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy_en)

**Regional policy in your country:** [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/in-your-country\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/in-your-country_en)

**European Urban Initiative (EUI):** <https://www.urban-initiative.eu/>

**JRC Strat-Board** (integrated territorial strategies repository): <https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/strat-board/?lng=en>

**Just Transition Fund:** [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/funding/just-transition-fund\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/just-transition-fund_en)

**Harnessing Talent in Europe's Regions:** [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_23\\_145](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_23_145)