

ESF Complementarity & coordination with other EU policy instruments

Summary

Ms Uustal will focus on the complementarities between the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund within the Cohesion Policy. She will discuss the benefits of integrated management of these two instruments as well as the risks associated with decoupling on the EU-level as has been suggested by some. There is wide evidence on greater synergies and effectiveness when “soft” and “hard” investments are planned together, both on the project and policy level. Also, investments into human capital cannot be made in isolation from investments into public services, infrastructure, SME development, etc.

Cohesion Policy offers a strong basis for integrated management of funds, options to further enforce this integration throughout the programming cycle should be discussed in view of the future of the Cohesion Policy.