

ROADMAP	
TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE	Conclusions of the Fifth Report on economic, social and territorial cohesion
TYPE OF INITIATIVE	X CWP • Non-CWP • Implementing act/Delegated act
LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT	
EXPECTED DATE OF ADOPTION	Month/Year: November 2010
VERSION OF ROADMAP	No: 7 Last modification: Month/Year: 08/2010

A. Context, problem definition
<p>(i) What is the political context of the initiative?</p> <p>(ii) How does it relate to past and possible future initiatives, and to other EU policies?</p> <p>(iii) What ex-post analysis of the existing policy has been carried out and what results are relevant for this initiative?</p>
<p>(i) What is the political context of the initiative?</p> <p>The overall objectives of cohesion policy are set in Article 174 of the TFEU which states that "In order to promote its overall harmonious development, the Union shall develop and pursue its actions leading to the strengthening of its economic, social and territorial cohesion." Art 175 states that the "Union shall also support the achievement of these objectives by the action it takes through the Structural Funds (European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, Guidance Section; European Social Fund; European Regional Development Fund), the European Investment Bank and the other existing Financial Instruments.</p> <p>In accordance with Article 175 of the Treaty, the 5th Cohesion Report provides an overview every three years on the progress made towards achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion and is accompanied by appropriate (legislative) proposals if necessary.</p> <p>A new legislative framework should be prepared for the period post 2013. Due to uncertainties linked to the preparation of the Financial Perspectives for the period 2014-2020, legal proposals will be presented at a later stage in the first half of 2011. These proposals are dealt with in detail in the three roadmaps prepared for the 2011 Commission work programme which cover the General, ERDF/Cohesion Fund and ESF regulations.</p> <p>The Communication accompanying the 5th Cohesion Report will therefore draw the conclusions from the Cohesion Report and thereby prepare the grounds for the legal proposals on the future of the European cohesion policy, to be adopted by the Commission in 2011. It will identify orientations and options as the basis for a broad consultation with Member States and stakeholders. It will take into account the specificities of each of the funds, including those stemming from the dual legal basis for the ESF in Art. 162 and 175 of the TFEU.</p>
<p>(ii) How does it relate to past and possible future initiatives, and to other EU policies?</p> <p>EU initiatives which provide the framework for Cohesion Policy post 2013 include the Europe 2020 Strategy and its new Integrated Guidelines, the upcoming Budget Review, the Commission's forthcoming proposal on the multiannual financial framework for the period post 2013, and the proposed revision of the Financial Regulation.</p> <p>The Communication on the Europe 2020 Strategy highlighted that "economic, social and territorial cohesion will remain at the heart of the Europe 2020 strategy to ensure that all energies and capacities are mobilised and focused on the pursuit of the strategy's priorities. Cohesion policy and its structural funds, while important in their own right, are key delivery mechanisms to achieve the priorities of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in Member States and regions".</p>
<p>(iii) What ex-post analysis of the existing policy has been carried out and what results are relevant for this initiative?</p> <p>The analysis is based on the follow-up of the 4th Cohesion Report, in which the Commission launched a major stakeholder discussion on the future of the policy, and the analytical body of the 5th Cohesion Report, which will contain the Commission's assessment of economic, social and territorial cohesion policies and instruments, as well as numerous evaluations, studies and reports. It will also take into account the ex-post evaluations of the 2000-2006 programming period, several consultations with stakeholders, the discussions of the High Level Group, the ESF Committee Ad-Hoc Group, as well as a number of conferences and meetings with (local)</p>

experts and academics.
What are the main problems which this initiative will address?
The communication will address problems in the legislative framework for Cohesion Policy linked to the effectiveness, European value added and efficiency of the policy and its funds.
Who will be affected by it?
This Commission Communication will explore avenues on the future of European cohesion policy essential to the public debate and to a proper consultation before preparation of impact assessments and legal proposals. Therefore the Communication itself does not have direct impacts. The issues discussed in the communication will affect mostly Member States and regions which currently benefit from Structural and Cohesion Funds support. In addition, public and non-governmental organisations involved in design and implementation of the funds (partnership principle) as well as private and public sector beneficiaries of support will also be affected.
(i) Is EU action justified on grounds of subsidiarity? (ii) Why can Member States not achieve the objectives of the proposed action sufficiently by themselves? (Necessity Test) (iii) Can the EU achieve the objectives better? (Test of EU Value Added)
Yes. EU action in Cohesion Policy is justified on the grounds of the objectives laid out in Article 174 of the Treaty. The right to act is constituted by Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union, which states that "[the Union] shall promote economic, social and territorial cohesion and solidarity among Member States", as well as by Article 175 of the TFEU which explicitly requests the Union to implement this policy by means of Structural Funds, and Article 177 which defines the role of the Cohesion Fund. The aims of European Social Fund (ESF), European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Cohesion Fund (CF) are defined in Articles 162, 176 and 177. The policy already has strong focus on subsidiarity.

B. Objectives of the initiative
What are the main policy objectives?
The objective of the Communication is to provide orientations and options on the future legal framework for Cohesion Policy and the ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund as a basis for a broad-based consultation with stakeholders. It will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> § provide an opportunity for the Commission to present more detailed orientations where policy proposals have already been made in areas such Europe 2020, economic policy coordination and the Financial Regulation; § explore in greater detail options identified in the budget review paper due for adoption in September 2010.
Do the objectives imply developing EU policy in new areas?
No. The initiative relates to the review and improvement of existing EU policies.

C. Options
(i) What are the policy options being considered? (ii) What legislative or 'soft law' instruments could be considered? (iii) How do the options respect the proportionality principle?
(i) What are the policy options being considered? (ii) What legislative or 'soft law' instruments could be considered? The Communication will develop policy orientations and options in the light of the budget review document to be presented in September.
(ii) What legislative or 'soft law' instruments could be considered? There is an evident need for a Council and Parliament Regulation to regulate the management of a financial instrument; no possibility for soft law proposal.
(iii) How do the options respect the proportionality principle? In the follow-up legislative proposals all options will be assessed in terms of proportionality principle. Because they are oriented towards better delivery of EU objectives, instruments will be considered in the light of EU added value.

D. Initial assessment of impacts

What are the benefits and costs of each of the policy options?

No impact assessment is foreseen for this communication. The impact assessment on the follow-up legislative proposals will evaluate the consequences of each option.

Could any or all of the options have significant impacts on (i) simplification, (ii) administrative burden and (iii) on relations with other countries, (iv) implementation arrangements? And (v) could any be difficult to transpose for certain Member States?

The follow-up legislative proposals could lead to simplification, reduction of administrative burden and could have implications in relation to third countries.

(i) Will an IA be carried out for this initiative and/or possible follow-up initiatives? (ii) When will the IA work start? (iii) When will you set up the IA Steering Group and how often will it meet? (iv) What DGs will be invited?

This communication will not have an Impact Assessment. It will contribute through the consultation process to the three impact assessments which will be undertaken in the context of the legal proposals for the General, ERDF/Cohesion Fund and ESF regulations.

(i) Is any of options likely to have impacts on the EU budget above €5m?

(ii) If so, will this IA serve also as an ex-ante evaluation, as required by the Financial regulation? If not, provide information about the timing of the ex-ante evaluation.

The follow-up legal proposals have impacts on the EU budget.

E. Evidence base, planning of further work and consultation

(i) What information and data are already available? Will existing impact assessment and evaluation work be used?

(ii) What further information needs to be gathered, how will this be done (e.g. internally or by an external contractor), and by when?

(iii) What is the timing for the procurement process & the contract for any external contracts that you are planning (e.g. for analytical studies, information gathering, etc.)?

(iv) Is any particular communication or information activity foreseen? If so, what, and by when?

The evidence base for communication will be based on the analytical body of the 5th Cohesion report, on ex-post evaluations of the 2000-2006 programming period and thematic evaluations of the 2007-2013 programming period and other relevant studies.

Which stakeholders & experts have been or will be consulted, how, and at what stage?

A number of public consultations had already been carried out with stakeholders, members of civil society, representatives of administrations in Member States and academics, These include the public consultations following the adoption of 4th Cohesion Report and the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion and those undertaken in the context of the Budget Review and the Europe 2020. The work will also take into account the work within the ad hoc group on the future of the ESF set up by the ESF Committee and the High Level Group reflecting on future Cohesion Policy.