

ROADMAP

Title of the initiative: Communication on "**Cohesion policy reinforcing sustainable development in the EU's regions and delivering Europe 2020**"

Type of initiative (CWP/Catalogue/Comitology): CWP

Lead DG/contact person/details: DG REGIO D.2

Expected date of adoption of the initiative (month/year): July 2010

Date of modification:

Version No:

Initial IA screening & planning of further work

A. Context and problem definition

(i) What is the political context of the initiative?:

"Europe 2020 strategy" and "Strategic reports 2009 of the Cohesion Policy": need for reinforced actions and delivery regarding the sustainable development of EU regions

Provision of orientations to reinforce the CP contribution to the EU 2020 strategy

(ii) How does this initiative relate to past and possible future initiatives, and to other EU policies?:

Past initiatives following the decision on the current Cohesion Policy regulations for 2007-2013:

EU Sustainable Development;

Strategic energy technology plan;

Energy and climate package;

White Paper on adaptation to climate change,

Sustainable Production & Consumption Action plan

Future initiatives:

Upcoming EU Innovation Plan & Eco-innovation action plan

White Paper on transport

Recast of the Energy Building Performance Directive

New Energy Efficiency Action Plan

The CP Communication will propose specific actions to reinforce the impact of the support provided by the CP financed investments to the above mentioned sectoral policies

What are the main problems identified?: Slow absorption of Cohesion Policy funding in key areas of sustainable development and focus Managing Authorities on new EU policy priorities. Need to provide EU's regions with further guidance and practical information to enhance delivery on sustainable development through Cohesion Policy funding.

Who is affected? The Member States, especially the regional and local authorities, and as a consequence final beneficiaries as a reinforcement of their investments

(i) Is EU action justified on grounds of subsidiarity? (ii) Why can the objectives of the proposed action not be achieved sufficiently by Member States (necessity test)? (iii) As a result of this, can objectives be better achieved by action by the Community (test of EU Value Added)?

A number of EU key policy priorities have shifted since adoption of the 2005 Community Strategic Guidelines at the basis of the 2007-13 CP programmes, the latter being delivered through the MS partners. The Communication will stress the ways to enhance efficiency in delivery by using existing good practices to improve implementation procedures and draw the attention towards some priorities in the programmes that can reinforce sustainable growth (EU 2020) and hasten the exit from the crisis.

B. Objectives of EU initiative

What are the main policy objectives? Assist Member States partners (Managing Authorities, Intermediate Bodies and Implementing Agencies) better use the potential of 2007-2013 Cohesion Policy programmes and its delivery mechanisms to improve the sustainable development of regions and increase delivery of the EU 2020 objectives on the ground

Do the objectives imply developing EU policy in new areas or in areas of strategic importance? No new EU policy

C. Options

(i) What are the policy options? No policy options; the Communication is aimed at providing guidance, practical information and good practice on how to use cohesion policy instruments in this context. In particular, the Communication will propose two complementary options: first, to reinforce the "greening" of the implementing procedures and, second, to accelerate and further invest in priority sectors contributing to the EU 2020 sustainable growth.

(ii) What legislative or 'soft law' instruments could be considered? None

(iii) Would any legislative initiatives go beyond routine up-date of existing legislation? N.A.

Does the action proposed in the options cut across several policy areas or impact on action taken/planned by other Commission departments? Yes, impact on policy areas such as environment, energy, climate change, transport, employment. The relevant EC departments are/will be involved. DG EMPL, CLIM, ENER and ENV are closely associated to the drafting of the Communication. Given the broad scope of the topic - sustainable development - quite a number of other DGs are also consulted on the preliminary draft, such as RTD, MOVE or ENTR. These DGs will be expanded when the ISC will be launched.

Explain how the options respect the proportionality principle Programme implementation reaching its mid point, the adoption of a Communication has seemed the best practical option, instead of amending the 2005 CSG.

D. Initial assessment of impacts

What are the significant impacts likely to result from each policy option (cf. list of impacts in the Impact Assessment Guidelines pages 32-37), even if these impacts would materialise only after subsequent Commission initiatives? No IA As result of the adoption of the Communication, MS partners will be more aware of the potential impact of their investment decisions and the available alternatives in view of strengthening the sustainability of their regions and facilitating the exit from the crisis.

Could the options have impacts on the EU-Budget (above 5 Mio €) and/or should the IA also serve as the ex-ante evaluation, required by the Financial Regulation? No impact on budget

Could the options have significant impacts on (i) simplification, (ii) administrative burden or on (iii) relations with third countries? No impact at this level; the impact will be perceived on the sustainability of the EU regions via the more conscious investment process and an increased level of investment in the EU 2020 priority sectors

E. Planning of further impact assessment work

When will the impact assessment work start? No IA, is needed, given that no change in legislation is proposed; just a reinforcement of procedures and investment in a few priority areas, whenever possible, is proposed

(i) What information and data are already available? (ii) Will this impact assessment build on already existing impact assessment work or evaluations carried out? (iii) What further information needs to be gathered? (iv) How will this be done (e.g. internally or by an external contractor) and by when?

(v) What type and level of analysis will be carried out (cf. principle of proportionate analysis)? No IA This initiative will build on the 2010 Strategic Report and evaluations carried out such as Ex Post Evaluation of the ERDF in Objectives 1 & 2 (2000-2006)

Which stakeholders & experts have been/will be consulted, how and at what stage? No IA