

ROADMAP

Title of the initiative: **Reinforcing the contribution of Cohesion Policy to smart growth in line with Europe 2020 objectives'**

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

Lead DG/contact person/details: DG REGIOD2

Expected date of adoption of the initiative (month/year): end of August 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 report 2010": need to reinforce combined efforts with related community policies to deliver increased support to the strategic contents of the Operational Programmes of Cohesion Policy

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?

It builds on previous Communications:

- COM (1993) "Cohesion Policy and RTD Policy – Synergies between Research and Technological Development Policy and economic and social cohesion policy"
- COM (1998) "Reinforcing Cohesion and Competitiveness through Research Technological Development and Innovation"
- COM (2001) "The Regional Dimension of the European Research Area"

It would be complementary to the upcoming EU Research and Innovation Plan, foreseen for adoption on 7 September 2010 (oral procedure).

What are the main problems identified?

Need to increase the effectiveness of the use of the ERDF for innovation, need to increase the consistency and complementarities among Community Policies and Funds for innovation

Need to align these policies with EU2020.

Following the recommendations in the 2007 Communication "Competitive European Regions through Research and Innovation", the Commission has produced an EU Practical Guide to EU Funding opportunities for Research and Innovation that highlights the complementarities among the Community Funds for this purpose and explains how to use them most appropriately, including in combination.

Building on this intensive work and actions are being developed to increase synergies and to open space for more close cooperation and consistency of these policies for post 2013 under the umbrella of Europe 2020 strategy.

Who is affected?

The Member States and the regional and local authorities

(i) Is EU action justified on grounds of subsidiarity?

The communication will provide guidance for the Member States and regions to support their efforts to implement performing measures that will improve the synergies among the Community Funds available for innovation and to improve the projects that are being supported by the ERDF.

(ii) Why can the objectives of the proposed action not be achieved sufficiently by Member States (necessity test)?

Because the Commission has a more in-depth knowledge of good examples of successful synergies already developed by some regions and can help to disseminate them. The Communication will be also drafted with close cooperation of other DGs and will use the results of recent studies and other material that are relevant for the regions and Member States.

(iii) As a result of this, can objectives be better achieved by action by the Community (test of EU Value Added)?

The Communication will be a direct link to the support of the implementation of Europe 2020 smart growth priority and will complement the EU Research and Innovation Plan

B. Objectives of EU initiative

What are the main policy objectives? Underline the potential and the delivery mechanisms of Cohesion Policy for Europe 2020 and the EU Research and Innovation Plan and its capacity to integrate and complement consistently other policies

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, it's aimed at providing guidance, practical information and good practice on how to use cohesion policy instruments in this context and how to increase synergies with other Community policies.

This Communication will help align Cohesion Policy objectives with the Europe 2020 vision in the field of smart growth in terms of developing regional economies based on knowledge and innovation. It will provide policy guidance to reinforce Cohesion Policy contribution to the Europe 2020 strategy by means of diffusing examples of good practice and reflecting on ways of overcoming obstacles and exploiting opportunities in the smart growth field. This Communication targets in particular national and regional authorities responsible for Cohesion Policy funds to raise their awareness and ownership of Europe 2020 objectives while facilitating a swift and efficient utilisation of Community aid in this field. This Communication will also respond to the need to reinforce combined efforts and exploit synergies with related community R&D and Innovation policies to deliver increased support to the strategic content of the Operational Programmes of Cohesion Policy.

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

(iii) Would any legislative initiatives go beyond routine up-date of existing legislation? No legislative initiatives

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 research, enterprise, information society policies. The relevant EC departments are/will be involved. An interservice group will be created with DG RTD and ENTR and other DGs will be closely associated, DG INFSO and EMPL

Explain how the options respect the proportionality principle. The Communication will increase the effectiveness of the use of the SF and the consistency among policy communities in this field.

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?

It will produce increased transparency of synergies among Community policies. It will illustrate the potential of Cohesion Policy to support Europe 2020.

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

E. Planning of further impact assessment work

When will the impact assessment work start? No IA. The Communication will have no impact on further actions for the Member States or on the budget.

(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

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

No IA