Results of the Survey on environmental integration in Cohesion Policy

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Questionnaire outline

INFORMATION ABOUT THE RESPONDENT

1. INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS
2. PROJECT PREPARATION, APPRAISAL AND CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS
3. ASSISTANCE TO PROJECT BENEFICIARIES
4. PARTNERSHIP
5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION
6. ASSISTANCE TO SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (SMEs)
7. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA)
8. ADDRESSING RESOURCE EFFICIENCY, CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION, BIODIVERSITY, DISASTER, RESILIENCE AND RISK PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT (ART. 8)
9. TRANSFERRING EXPERIENCE FROM MAJOR PROJECTS
10. CLOSING QUESTIONS
Respondents by institution

- Managing Authority: 35
- Environmental Authority: 5
- Managing Environmental Authority: 4
- Other: 1
INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS
Do any legal instruments or other arrangements exist in your MS to apply the environmental integration/sustainable development requirements as a horizontal principle according to Article 8 of CPR?

- Yes, legal instruments: 20
- Yes, other arrangements: 20
- I don't know: 8
- No: 1

- Definition of environmental integration (Art. 8 of CPR or Art. 11 of TFEU)

- Specific legal instruments:
  - 3 MS concrete legal instruments
  - others (EIA, SEA, env. legislation, etc.)

- Other arrangements:
  - national SD strategies
  - guidelines
  - monitoring requirements
  - Qs in applications forms
Do you have an audit trail defined for the implementation of horizontal environmental requirements?

- 29 YES
- Majority referred to:
  - SEA/EIA
  - project selection criteria
- Others:
  - monitoring
  - commitments in calls
  - reporting obligations in contracts
Who is the driving force for integration for sustainable development?

- MA (18) – driving force
- European Commission (9)
- Env. authorities (8)
- Other drivers (6):
  - regional and national authorities
Are environmental integration/sustainable development requirements applied to every priority axis and measure?

- Yes, to all priority axes: 31 votes
- No, only to some priority axes: 2 votes
- Not applicable: 1 vote
- I don't know: 1 vote

31 YES to all axes and priorities
Are environmental integration/sustainable development requirements customized to various types of projects (e.g. depending on the priority axis, measure, size or types of projects)?

- 29 YES – customised
PROJECT PREPARATION
Do calls for project proposals refer specifically to environmental integration/sustainable development requirements?

- 29 YES
- 14 Environment references:
  - env. priority axis calls
  - selection criteria
  - 'positive' projects
  - specific technical requirements
  - impact of the project on environment (positive, neutral, negative)
  - permits
  - compatibility with SEA
- 2 NO
- 2 I don't know
Do applications for non-major projects include environment related questions, regarding the compliance with the environmental legislation and/or environmental/sustainable development integration requirements?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes, questions linked to compliance</th>
<th>Yes, questions linked to environmental integration as a horizontal principle</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>I don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- 20 YES – compliance
  - env. legislation
  - env. decision required (plus CC&B)
  - env. indicators
  - env. agreement (statement from competent env. authority)
  - env. impact summary

- 24 YES – env. integration
  - SEA results
  - neutral and positive projects only
  - reduction of GHGs
  - SD implementation
Please indicate what types of environmental selection criteria are used for selecting projects?

- **15 YES to admissibility criteria**
  - resilience to cc
  - only positive projects
  - contribution to cross-cutting theee

- **15 YES to additional points**
  - positive impact on env.
  - located in degraded areas (e.g. brownfields)

- **Other criteria (12)**
  - projects cannot have negative impact on env.
Do you include horizontal environmental requirements as part of the funding contract?

- **27 YES**
  - condition on fulfilling the commitments from the project application
  - commitment to fulfil the planned indicators

- **14**

- **4**

- **I don't know**
ASSISTANCE TO BENEFICIARIES
Do you have regional or national guidelines to support environmental integration requirements?

- Yes: 28
- No: 13
- I don't know: 4

28 YES
- guidelines on mainstreaming of env. policy and CC
- support guides to beneficiaries for development of best environmental practices
- guidelines for documenting EIA for co-financed projects
- guide for investments, taking into account CC and disaster resilience
- Cross-Cutting Themes Guidance, Themes Matrix, Annexes, Factsheets and Glossary
What type of assistance do you provide to beneficiaries to support environmental integration/sustainable development requirements?

- Guidance (28)
- Face-to-face (25)
- E-mails (25)
- Trainings (14)
- Other (6)
  - telephone exchanges
  - web-service: provision of general info on the horizontal principles and specialized info on specific themes such as low carbon economy in the Structural Funds
At what stage of programming do you provide assistance regarding environmental integration requirements to beneficiaries?

- 33 pre-application
- 28 during delivery

### Bar Chart
- Pre-application advice: 33
- Counselling during delivery: 28
- No assistance: 3
- I don't know: 2
- Other: 2
Who provides assistance to beneficiaries to support environmental integration requirements?

- Specialised personnel at MA (21)
- Others
  - intermediate and implementing bodies
  - EU funds contractor agency
  - Joint Technical Secretariats
  - environmental authorities
  - the European Funds Information Points
Is there specialized personnel appointed with a responsibility to support environmental integration as a horizontal principle?

- No specialised personnel, specially appointed (18)
- If YES at MA (14) or other institutions (9)

**Titles:**
- Managing Authority
  - env. officer/manager
  - coordinator of env. matters
  - senior advisor
  - MA horizontal rapporteur
  - Environmental Sustainability Adviser
  - the Environmental Investment Contracting unit
- Other
  - env. experts within regional authorities
  - Appointed expert at the Prime Minister's Office
What are your mechanisms for sharing good practices about environmental integration among project beneficiaries?

- Publications/reports (25)
- Meetings (22)
- Other mechanisms (5):
  - websites (3),
  - factsheets/newsletters
  - conferences.

25
22
11
5
1
PARTNERSHIP
What is your opinion about the influence of partners, in particular, environmental authorities and non-governmental organisations, as regards environmental integration as a horizontal theme in your Operational Programme?

- Added value (33)
  -专家输入
  -背景材料
  -参与准备、启动、发展评估标准、选择或项目、监测
  -加强了项目的环境维度
  -伙伴关系意识创造

- No added value (3)
  -一切由立法定义
  -仅为了履行形式义务
  -缺乏时间，没有真正的互动
  -缺乏来自参与方的反馈
MONITORING AND EVALUATION
Do you have indicators which are used to show the contribution made by projects towards environmental integration/sustainable development as a horizontal principle?

- 27 YES – monitoring indicators for SD/env. integration
- But some indicators:
  - examples of typical environmental indicators used for OP
  - common indicators
  - references to the climate tracking requirements
How is the performance of environmental requirements monitored?

- **Indicators (26)**
  - users of alternative transportation (instead of cars)
  - enterprises adopting or improving their sustainable development strategies
  - contribution in energy saving and RES promotion

- **Other tools**
  - project reports
  - on-spot controls
  - develop an organisational Eco Code
  - BREEAM excellent
  - CEEQUAL
  - SUDS ...
What actions do you take if horizontal environmental requirements are not implemented?

- Reminders (26) most 'popular'
- If they do not work, 'suspension of payments'
- Other
  - recovery of grants
  - termination of contracts
How is the performance of horizontal environmental requirements communicated?

- Annual implementation reports (33)
- Meetings (16)
- Websites (15)
- Conferences (10)
- OPs use a few tools for this purpose at the same time.
- Good practice (FI): an implementation study on horizontal integration (planned)
SMEs
Do you have assessments investigating the environmental performance of EU funded SMEs in relation to their profitability?

- No: 36
- I don't know: 9

- Poor results ...
- A few good practice regarding SMEs and env. performance linked to another question on "environmental integration measures most frequently applied by SMEs":
  - improving the energy efficiency of businesses
  - promotion of renewable energy use in businesses
  - under business competitiveness and innovation: support to investments being provided will encompass environmental advice
SEA
What is your opinion about the contribution of the SEA for your Operational Programme?

- **Added value (30)**
  - additional independent expertise
  - local knowledge
  - awareness raising
  - public involvement
  - clear environmental improvements
  - recommendations for the implementation stage

- **No added value (7)**
  - pure formality
  - did not bring any new information
  - brought few changes

- **I don't know (2)**

- **7**
- **6**
- **30**

- **I don't know**
What was your major barrier as regards the application of the SEA to your Operational Programme?

- Problems with the coordination of OP and SEA (13)
- Lack of time (10)
- Nature of the OP (9) – "OP not specific enough to deliver a good SEA"
- Lack of clear guidance (4)
- Other (1) – "Difficulties were minor, however, some adjusting here and there at times."

Barriers (37)
Do you have any specific requirements to integrate the following issues across different priority axes/measures?

- Resource efficiency (outside TO6)
- Biodiversity (outside TO6)
- Climate change mitigation (outside TO4)
- Climate change adaptation (outside TO5)
- Disaster resilience (outside TO5)
- Risk prevention (outside TO5)

![Bar chart showing the distribution of responses](chart.png)
MAJOR PROJECTS
Do you use the experience from major projects as regards compliance with the EU environmental legislation and environmental integration as a horizontal principle to strengthen the environmental dimension of non-major projects?

- Not applicable: 20
- No: 14
- I don't know: 6
- Yes: 5

- Only five confirmed that it applies to their OPs
- Replies quite general and specific ones referred to financial considerations
- No consideration of major projects experience as regards the environment as a source of knowledge for non-major projects
- Lost opportunity?
- Further analysis needed (institutional set-up, division of responsibilities, working methods might influence this situation?).
CLOSING QUESTIONS
What is the **biggest barrier** to environmental integration in your Operational Programme?