



# Tools supporting Administrative Capacity Building

DG Regional and Urban Policy - Unit E1 "Competence Centre for Administrative Capacity-Building and the Solidarity Fund"

# Tools supporting ACB

- *REGIO Peer2Peer*
- *REGIO Communities of Practitioners*
- *The Competency framework & self-assessment tool*
- *Training programme*
- *Guide on how to avoid PP errors*
- *Practical Toolkit on ACB Roadmaps & OECD report on Phase I of pilot on ACB roadmaps*

## *For 2021-2027 programming*

- *Integrity Pacts*
- *Capacity building linked to citizen engagement*
- *Anti-fraud capacity-building toolbox*

# TAIEX-REGIO PEER 2 PEER

Exchanging experience between authorities managing ERDF and CF funding.

Expert missions



Up to 5 days

Study visits



Up to 5 days

Workshops



Up to 2 days

**New: ONLINE EXCHANGES now available**

Apply online: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/p2p](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/p2p)

E-mail: [REGIO-PEER2PEER@ec.europa.eu](mailto:REGIO-PEER2PEER@ec.europa.eu)

# REGIO Communities of Practitioners

Cohesion policy practitioners in MAs/IBs establishing an **ongoing dialogue** online and through physical meetings

By getting involved, you can

- exchange and work on topics of interest to you
- develop solutions to joint challenges
- benefit from experience of your peers
- share your experience, concerns
- multiple options for virtual and physical interaction



Blog of the Communities: <https://regiopractitioners.wordpress.com/>

E-mail: [regiopractitioners@gmail.com](mailto:regiopractitioners@gmail.com)

Contact in DG REGIO: [bruno.mola@ec.europa.eu](mailto:bruno.mola@ec.europa.eu)

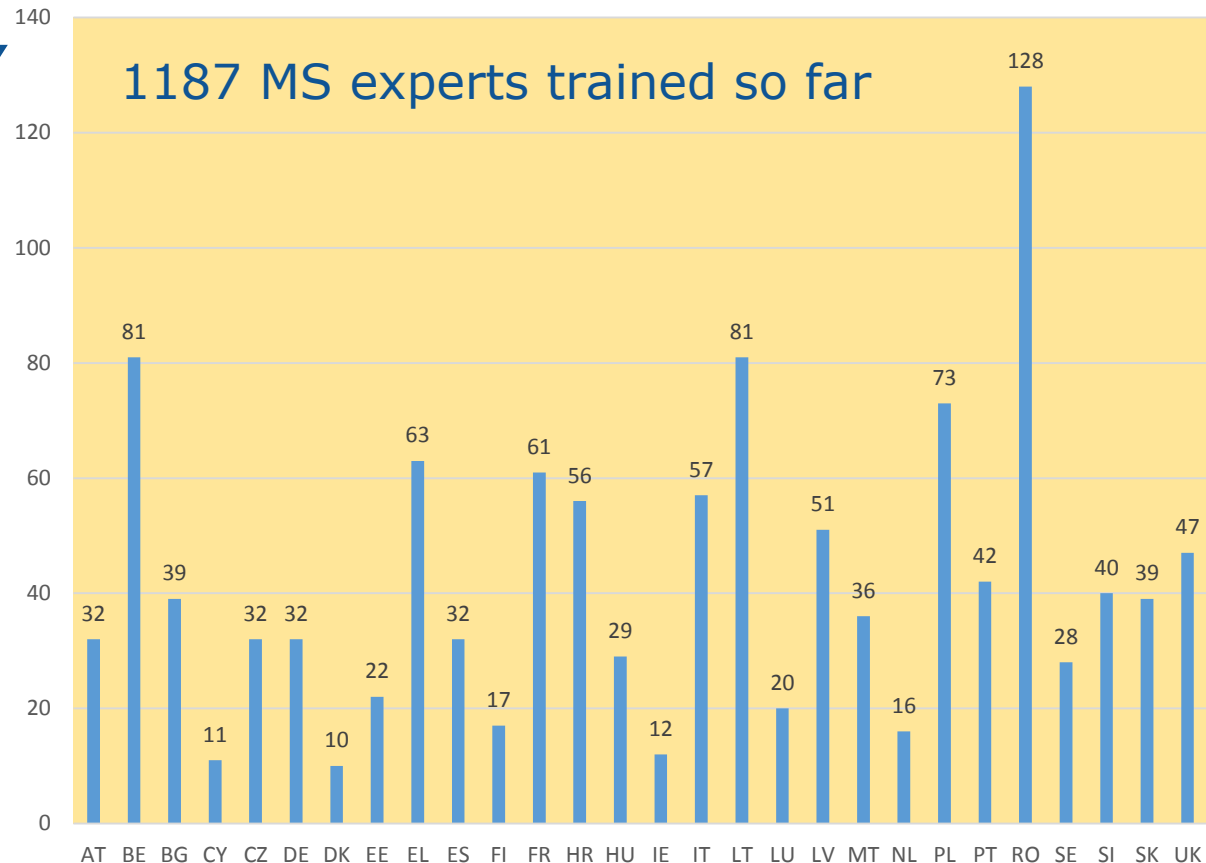
# Training programme

Since 2014 DG REGIO offers hands-on trainings targeting national and regional authorities responsible for the management of the Structural and Cohesion Funds

## **3 modules currently available:**

- *State Aid*
- *Strategic public procurement*
- *Identifying and preventing fraud and corruption in ESIF*

**NEW:** [Online sessions in 2020](#)



# The practical toolkit

The toolkit is designed to provide inspiration for those seeking to develop roadmaps for ACB

*It must not be regarded as a formal set of guidelines containing legal interpretation of the cohesion policy regulations 2021-2027. Therefore it cannot be used by auditors to define eligibility.*

[https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/roadmap\\_admin/](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/roadmap_admin/)



# Synthesis report on Phase I of pilot action

OECD Multi-level Governance Studies



## Strengthening Governance of EU Funds under Cohesion Policy

ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY BUILDING ROADMAPS



# Factsheet



## STRENGTHENING OF GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY FOR COHESION POLICY - PILOT ACTION IN COOPERATION WITH THE OECD -

### THE BACKGROUND

Quality institutions and well-functioning administrations matter for the effectiveness and impact of EU funds in the Member States and regions. Focusing on EU Cohesion Policy funding, the VII Cohesion Report and recent research from academia and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) have shown that regions with weak institutions face greater difficulties effectively absorbing regional development and cohesion funds and making the most of the investments that these funds support. The quality of governance at all levels of government influences how cohesion investment translates into greater growth. In addition, quality institutions (and through these institutional practices) can positively affect the returns to Cohesion Policy investment, regional competitiveness and economic growth, whereas poor institutions will have an adverse effect. Thus, it is essential to invest in governance, to build adequate capabilities at all levels of government to manage EU funds, and to design strong investment strategies.

### THE PILOT PROJECT

The pilot action 'Frontloading administrative capacity building to prepare for the 2021-2027 programming period' was launched in June 2018 to provide hands-on support by experts from the Commission and the OECD to strengthen the administrative capacity of the authorities dealing with EU funds on a daily basis. The goal is to test and develop new solutions to strengthen administrative capacity in the post 2020 budgetary period.

#### Phase I

- Identification of strengths and specific weaknesses to address through a participatory process, involving all relevant actors.
- Preparation of roadmaps to address the weaknesses with milestones, targets and deadlines.

#### Phase II

- Implementation of key relevant actions from the roadmaps.



This analytical framework informed the diagnostic process used to develop the roadmaps for administrative capacity building

### THE 5 PARTICIPATING PROGRAMMES

- The „Transport infrastructure, environment and sustainable development“ programme in Greece
- The Lubelskie regional programme in Poland
- The Extremadura regional programme in Spain
- The „Competitiveness and cohesion“ programme in Croatia
- The „Regions in Growth“ programme in Bulgaria.

Regional and Urban Policy

<https://www.oecd.org/publications/strengthening-governance-of-eu-funds-under-cohesion-policy-9b71c8d8-en.h>



European Commission

# Public Procurement – Guidance for practitioners (2018)

Guidance:

- for ESIF practitioners
- to avoid the most common errors in PP
- encourage good practices – *useful practical tools and advises*

*Available in all MS languages*

It is not legally binding but aims to provide general recommendations and to reflect best practice.

[https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/information/publications/guidelines/2018/public-procurement-guidance-for-practitioners-2018](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/guidelines/2018/public-procurement-guidance-for-practitioners-2018)





# EU Competency Framework

Maps out ERDF /CF specific competences

Covers all institutions involved in ERDF/CF management and implementation

Includes self-assessment tool

Identifies competency gaps both at individual and institutional levels



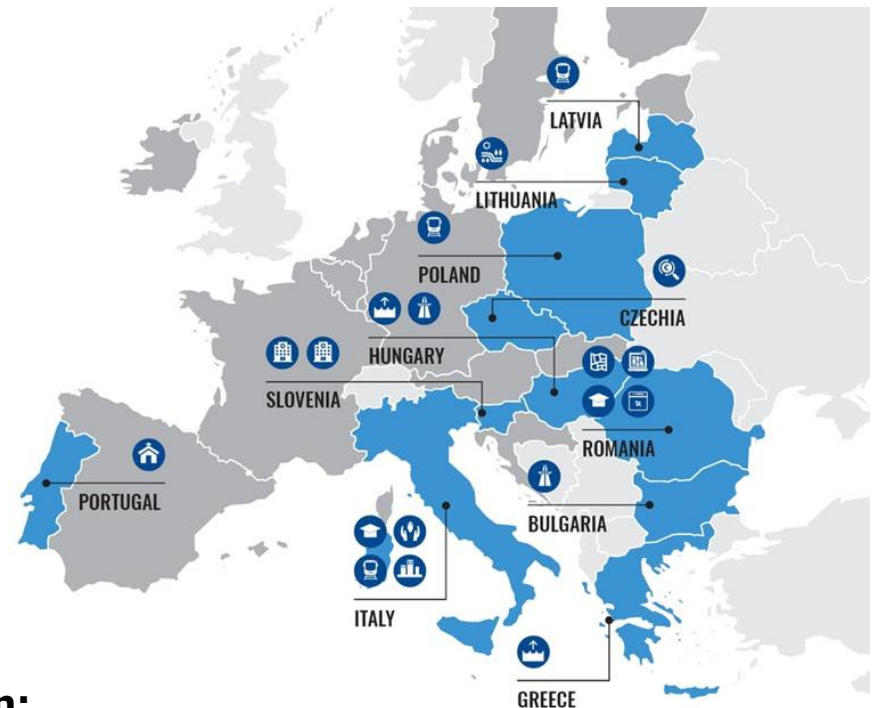
*Available in 22 languages*

[https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/competency/](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/competency/)

# Integrity Pacts – Civil Control Mechanism for Safeguarding EU Funds

Since 2015, **18** pilot projects in **11** Member States covering 8 sectors:  
*Transport, Institutional Building & Administrative Capacity,  
Environment, Culture, Integrated Territorial Investment, Monitoring,  
Education, Healthcare*

An Integrity pact is an agreement **bringing together contracting authorities, economic operators and an independent monitor (civil society organisation)** to ensure that major public contracts are procured and implemented to the highest possible standards of **transparency, accountability and efficiency**, according to the **public interest**



▪ **More information:**

[https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/integrity-pacts/](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/integrity-pacts/)

# Integrity Pacts: Acknowledged benefits

Improves **communication** and increases **trust** between contractor, local stakeholders and the general public;

Can bring **cost savings** through **preventing irregularities or mismanagement**;

Contributes to increase **transparency** and **accountability**

Promotes **fair play** among competitors

Acts as a **preventive early warning system** for irregularities;

Can contribute to the **strengthening of the reputation** of a public body;

# Citizens' engagement: pilot initiative for managing authorities/IBs

Analysing the state of play

Discussion with relevant stakeholders

Action plan

 12 months

 OECD + 5 MAs/IBs

Selection of MAs/IBs to be concluded soon

# Citizens' engagement: support for civil society organisations' projects

Grants for projects led by civil society organisations to **develop new tools or actions that support citizens' engagement in cohesion policy.**

Proposals are currently under evaluation. **15 Projects** will be selected to receive financial support (up to **EUR 25.000**). The duration of each project will be maximum 12 months.

Results of selection process are expected to be announced in **September 2020.**

# Anti-fraud capacity-building toolbox

- A central website acting as an **e-learning platform and toolbox** on anti-fraud and corruption
- Providing **case studies, good practices** and **diagnostic tools** to support practitioners in MS in their work to prevent and detect fraud and corruption in ESIF projects
- Expected to be ready in the first half of **2021**



**Thank you for your attention!**