



**Ex post evaluation
of Cohesion Policy programmes 2007-2013
financed by the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund**

WP1: Synthesis Report

Inception Report

12 August 2014



**A report to the European Commission
Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy**

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1. Presentation of the Team and Organisation

Structure and Role of Team members

The contract is under the overall responsibility of Terry Ward (Director of Research – Applica). The organisational structure put in place to coordinate the work implied by the various tasks of the project is made up of a Project Management Unit, a Core Team, a Research Team and an Event and Communications Team for event-related and dissemination tasks.

The **Project Management Unit** will be the central point of contact for the Commission services. It will be responsible for organising and coordinating the various tasks and of ensuring a high quality standard of all the reports and deliverables produced under this project. The work this implies will be shared between Terry Ward, the project director, Lydia Greunz, the project manager and Loredana Sementini, the project administrator and events coordinator.

The **Core Team** will support and supervise the work of **Research Team** members in each partner organisation and provide methodological guidance. The core team is composed of senior experts of the three partner organisations: Terry Ward and Lydia Greunz from Applica, Peter Tyler from Cambridge Economic Associates, Andrea Naldini and Enrico Wolleb from Ismeri Europa. A **Statistical Support Unit** will help the research team to collect and prepare the data for carrying out the various tasks of the project.

The **Event and Communications Team** has the specific responsibility of organising the meetings and the seminars that will be held by other WPs in the course of the ex post evaluation exercise as well as those of WP1 and of providing administrative support.

The table below sets out the role of each Team member involved in the project, their level of expertise as well as their language abilities.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Level of expertise</i>	<i>Languages</i>
Terry Ward Project Director	Applica	Project Management Unit Core Team	1	EN, FR
Lydia Greunz Project Manager	Applica	Project Management Unit Core team	1	EN, FR, DE
Loredana Sementini Project Administrator	Applica	Project Management Unit Event and Communication	1	EN, FR, IT
Andrea Naldini	Ismeri Europa	Core Team	1	EN, IT
Peter Tyler	CEA	Core Team	1	EN
Enrico Wolleb	Ismeri Europa	Core Team	1	EN, FR, IT
Andrea Ciffolilli	Ismeri Europa	Research Team	2	EN, IT
Harry Garretsen	CEA	Research Team	1	EN, NL
Francesca Liberati	Applica	Research Team	2	EN, IT, DE, FR

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Level of expertise</i>	<i>Languages</i>
Ron Martin	CEA	Research Team	1	EN
Marco Pompili	Ismeri Europa	Research Team	2	EN, IT
Andy Fuller	Applica	Statistical support	1	EN
Fadila Sanoussi	Applica	Statistical support	3	EN, FR
Liesbeth Haagdoorens	Applica	Event and Communication	3	EN, DE, NL, FR
Gisèle Uwayezu	Applica	Event and Communication	3	EN, FR, NL

Additional support

National experts will be recruited as necessary in order to help to fill in information gaps and clarify specific issues by interviewing the relevant authorities in the Member States. The experts in question are listed below. All of them have detailed knowledge of Cohesion Policy issues in their respective country and all but a few were part of the Expert Evaluation Network delivering Policy analysis on the achievements of Cohesion Policy over the 2007-2013 period.

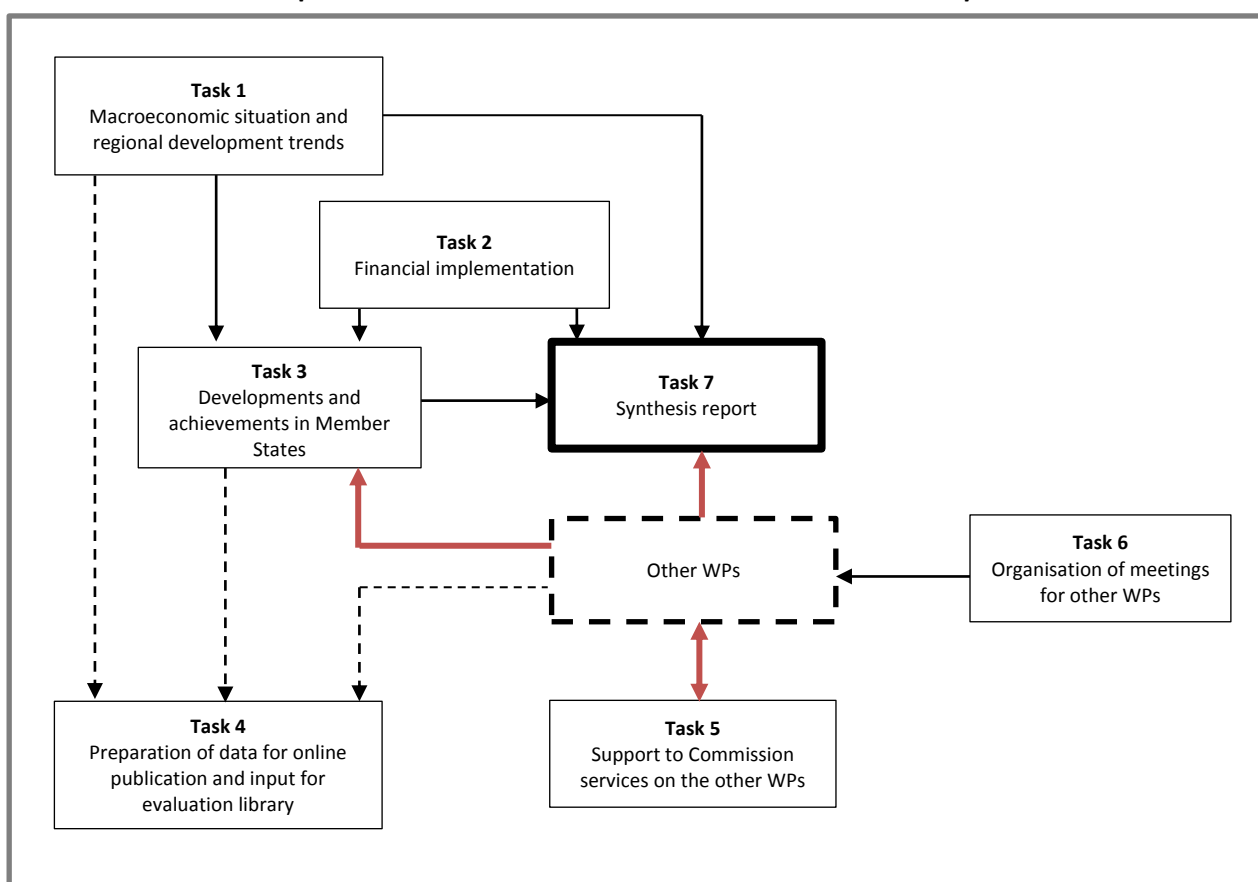
- Austria: Roman Römisch (The Vienna institute for international studies)
- Belgium and Luxembourg: Lydia Greunz (Applica)
- Bulgaria: Ruslan Stefanov (Centre for the Study of Democracy)
- Croatia: Marijana Sumpor (Insitute of Economics, Zagreb)
- Czech Republic: Jiri Blazek (Charles University, Prague)
- Denmark: Peter Plougmann (New Insight A/S)
- Estonia: Tarmo Kalvet (Ragnar Nurkse School of Innovation and Governance)
- Finland: Seppo Laakso (Urban Research TA)
- France: Patrice Herrmann (VIAREGIO)
- Germany: Oliver Schwab (Institut für Stadtforschung u. Strukturpolitik GmbH)
- Greece and Cyprus: Lena Tsipouri (University of Athens)
- Hungary: Gábor Balás (HÉTFA Centre for Economic and Social Analyses)
- Ireland: Patrick Drudy (Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, Dublin)
- Italy: Andrea Ciffolilli (ISMERI Europa)
- Latvia: Alf Vanags (Baltic International Centre for Economic Policy studies)
- Lithuania: Agne Miseliuniene (ESTEP)
- Malta: Gordon Cordina (E-Cubed consultants Ltd)
- Netherlands: Harry Garretsen (University of Groningen)
- Poland: Grzegorz Gorzelak (EUROREG, Warsaw University)
- Portugal: Heitor Gomez (CEDRU)
- Romania: Liliana Olivia Lucaci (L&G Business Services srl)
- Slovakia: Karol Frank (Institute for Economic Research - Slovak Academy of Sciences)
- Slovenia: Damjan Kavaz (Institute for Economic Research, Ljubljana)
- Spain: Andres Faiña (A Coruña University)
- Sweden: Jan-Evert Nilsson (JENA)
- UK: Peter Tyler (Cambridge Economic Associates Ltd)

2. The tasks to be undertaken and the approach

Overview

The central aim of WP1 is to synthesise the main findings that come out from the evaluations and studies carried out under the various WPs that form the ex post evaluation and to produce a synthesis report on these (**Task 7**). It is also to produce concise summaries on the developments and achievements in each of the 28 Member States which were in receipt of financial support over the period (**Task 3**). The further central tasks are to provide support to Commission services throughout the whole duration of the evaluation with constructive proposals on the work carried out by other WPs (**Task 5**) and to organise their main meetings and seminars (**Task 6**).

Schema of relationship between Tasks of WP1 and with other WPs of the *ex post* evaluation



The pieces of analysis included in the present WP are intended to underpin the findings of the various WPs and to help put them into context. A first task consists of summarising the macroeconomic environment in which Cohesion Policy – and development policy in the various Member States – was carried out during the period under consideration, to identify the main regional developments over the period and the way that regional disparities changed and to assess the effects of the economic and financial crisis on the implementation of the programmes in the Member States (**Task 1**). A second piece of analysis consists of assessing the state of programme and project implementation in the different Member States according to the latest financial data available, the division of funding between policy areas and the changes which occurred over the

period (**Task 2**). The data compiled from these two pieces of analysis will feed into the country reports (**Task 3**) along with relevant data and findings from the other WPs. All of this material will be assembled in a form which makes it easy to publish them online, including in maps showing, e.g. the location of expenditure and outcomes, so that anyone interested –researchers in particular – has ready access to them (**Task 4**).

Tasks

Task 1 – Macroeconomic situation and regional development trends

The concern of Task 1 is to review the macroeconomic situation which existed across the EU over the programming period and the way that it changed after programmes were initially decided, the effect of this on their implementation and the regional developments that occurred over these years. The purpose is to set the context for the evaluation and to describe the challenges which Member States had to face over the period and the way that they responded to them. This is not only to provide essential background material for the Synthesis report but equally so that those responsible for the other WPs can draw on the analysis and take the various aspects which come out of it into account when carrying out their evaluations of policy in the different areas.

Macro-economic background and role of Cohesion Policy as part of public investment in MS

The underlying economic conditions changed radically over the 2007-2013 period. While the programmes were drawn up at a time which had seen sustained economic growth for a number of years at a relatively high rate virtually throughout the EU, within a year or two of the programmes being initiated, the EU was hit by the global recession which followed the financial crisis in 2008. In the subsequent years Member States experienced a significant reduction in GDP, large-scale job losses and mounting unemployment.

The effect of the economic situation has been, on the one hand, to put pressure on public finances and to reduce the resources available for development expenditure and, on the other, to increase the importance of job creation and with it the need to stimulate growth. At the same time, fiscal consolidation measures to reduce budget deficits and contain mounting public debt have been implemented in virtually all countries adding to the pressure on government expenditure. Government investment in particular, which is a major element of development expenditure, has been cut back substantially in many countries as part of fiscal consolidation measures because of its “postponable” nature and because of the difficulties of reducing current spending given the increasing demand for social support. This added to the cutback in investment by companies and households which was especially pronounced in 2008-2009 as the GDP declined virtually throughout the EU but which continued in subsequent years.

Against this background, support from the Structural Fund has become even more important for development expenditure in EU12 countries as well as in Greece, Portugal and the less developed parts of Spain and Italy.

The first part of Task 1 will, first, review the macroeconomic environment in which Cohesion Policy programmes have been carried out during the programming period. The developments outlined above will be examined in more detail, bringing out the similarities and differences between Member States. Secondly, it will relate the financial resources provided by the ERDF and Cohesion Fund to government capital expenditure in Member States as well as to fixed capital formation overall to

indicate the importance of the Funds as a source of finance for investment. In so doing, it will take explicit account of the fact that capital expenditure in the government statistics – i.e. the sum of gross fixed capital formation and capital transfers – is only approximately equivalent to development expenditure. It will also allow, so far as possible, for the fact that capital transfers includes spending on bank and other company bail-outs which in some countries were substantially larger than the other elements (investment grants, for example) which are relevant for economic development.

The analysis will be based primarily on data from the National Accounts (for GDP, gross fixed capital formation and employment), the Labour Force Survey (for data on employment rates and unemployment) and Government Statistics (for government investment as well as government deficits and accumulated debt), all of them compiled by Eurostat and published in the online database. The latest Commission forecasts (produced by DG Economic and Financial Affairs and included in the Eurostat online database) will also be used to examine the likely situation up to the end of 2015, by when the funding for the period needs to have been spent.

As indicated in the tender specifications, the report on this part will be relatively short (no longer than 20 pages). It will give a concise overview of the macroeconomic situation in the 28 Member States (i.e. including Croatia) and the role of the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund (and other EU funding in the case of Croatia) in financing investment by, bringing out the main points as succinctly as possible. The text will be supported by carefully designed tables and graphs to present the data in as clear and informative way as possible.

An initial report will be produced in the first few months of the project getting underway and will be delivered at the latest at the beginning of December 2014. It will be updated beginning of 2016, as agreed at the kick off meeting, on the basis of the latest data available at the time – which should enable developments in 2014 to be covered - and will then feed into the Synthesis report.

Regional development trends

The second stage of Task 1 will examine the main regional developments in the EU over the programming period, focusing on the nature and scale of regional disparities of various kinds and how they have changed over the years, especially over the course of the crisis period. A distinction will be made between Convergence and Competitiveness and Employment regions throughout. Although not specified in the Tender Document, a distinction will also be made between ‘phasing in’ regions (those which were Objective 1 regions in the previous period but where GDP per head had risen above 75% of the EU average) and ‘phasing out’ regions (those with GDP per head above 75% of the EU-27 average but below 75% of the EU-15 average) and others. This is because the scale of financial support received was smaller than for Convergence regions but significantly greater than for Competitiveness and Employment regions (deliberately so since the purpose is to soften the effect of funding on the Convergence scale being withdrawn).

A further distinction to take into account is not to do with the receipt of financial support as such but to the underlying characteristics of regions, such as, in particular, whether they include a major city or not since this is likely to affect their performance. Moreover, the urban dimension is part of the concerns of Cohesion Policy (the URBAN initiative was incorporated into the ERDF in the 2007-2013 period) and, accordingly, merits consideration in the overall analysis.

The analysis will start with a review of the main recent studies on regional developments across the EU, starting from the 6th Report on Economic and Social Cohesion, relevant studies published by ESPON and the latest reports produced by the Expert Evaluation Network on the performance of

Cohesion Policy in the 2007-2013 period (especially the 2013 Synthesis report and country reports). The review will also cover other studies on specific issues, such as innovation and technology, labour force skills, international trade performance and spill-over effects from neighbouring regions which affect the development potential of regions as well as their actual performance.

The evidence suggests that before the onset of the crisis, there was a tendency for regional disparities in terms of GDP per head at least, though also in respect of employment and unemployment rates as well as of levels of productivity, to narrow across the EU, in part reflecting the high growth rates in many of the EU12 countries which entered the EU after 2004, both before and after their entry. The data so far available (which for GDP extend only up to 2011) seem to indicate, however, that disparities have widened since the onset of the crisis in most but not all countries. This might be a result of various factors, including the lower resilience of weaker regions to the economic downturn in the EU (given their typically greater dependence on the internal market) as well as the differential effect of fiscal consolidation measures given their greater reliance in many cases on government expenditure and employment, both of which have tended to be cut back over the crisis period.

The apparent widening of regional disparities creates a challenge for the *ex post* evaluation insofar as the regions which were the largest recipients of financial support under Cohesion Policy over the period also tended to be those in which economic performance was worst, in the sense that GDP per head declined by more than elsewhere or grew by less. Moreover, while there are no regional accounts data for the period after 2011, data on unemployment referred to in the Cohesion Report indicate that regional disparities in this regard continued to widen over much of the EU up to 2013. This, of course, does not mean that EU funding had no effect but it does make it important to try to identify the 'counterfactual' situation, or what would have been the case in the absence of EU funding. In other words, regional disparities might have widened by more than they seem to have done if there had been no financial support from the EU. The challenge is to demonstrate this, which is even more difficult than usual given the major change in economic circumstance as compared with the earlier years before the crisis.

A particular focus of the literature review will, therefore, be on studies which have attempted to assess the effect of EU support on regional developments over the crisis period and, indeed, before. Examples, a number of which members of the Consortium have been involved in, include:

- Becker S. O., Egger P. H., von Ehrlich M. (2012) "Too Much of a Good Thing? On the Growth Effects of the EU's Regional Policy", *European Economic Review*, 56: 648–668.
- Groot S., Mohlmann J., de Groot H., Garretsen, H. (2011) "The Crisis Sensitivity of European Countries and Regions", Tinbergen Institute Discussion Paper, TI-2011-071/3, in *Cambridge Journal of the Economy, Regions and Society*, Vol 4, Issue 3. November 2011.
- Kitson M., Martin, R., Tyler P. (2011) "The Geographies of Austerity", *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*. Vol 4, Issue 3, November 2011.
- McCann, P., Garretsen H., Martin R. and Tyler P. (2013), "What Future for Regional Policy?", *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, 6.2, 179-186.
- Laurent Davezies, *La crise qui vient – La nouvelle fracture territoriale*, Le Seuil, octobre 2012.

Given the relatively short time-span of data available in this regard, however, there will be a need for careful analysis of the regional data to try to give an indication at least of the relative performance of

Convergence regions after taking account of the effect of the adverse economic conditions on them as well as of possible differences in longer-term trends.

More generally, this part of Task 1 will update and extend the conclusions which emerge from the various existing studies on the basis of the latest data available, primarily those published in the Eurostat online database. It will cover not only economic and employment developments in the groups of regions distinguished but it will also examine other kinds of disparity between the regions concerned, including transport, renewable energy production, environmental infrastructure and demographic trends, as specified in the Tender Document, and R&D and ICT, which are not mentioned. Such disparities not only represent potential sources of economic, as well as social, disparity but as such also indicate areas of investment need. The focus will be both on the scale of the various disparities concerned and, more importantly, on the extent to which they changed over the programming period in the different groups of regions. This is of interest not only in itself but in order to provide a basis for assessing the division of funding between policy areas and what was achieved by the funding concerned in terms of outcomes (such as improving road and rail networks or public transport, increasing the supply of energy from renewables, connecting households to main drainage and wastewater treatment facilities or to broadband to speed up connection to the internet or responding to population ageing by expanding healthcare facilities or social amenities).

In addition to regional data, use will also be made of the data produced in the context of reviews of the progress made in implementing EU environmental legislation in Member States carried out by, or on behalf of, DG Environment¹.

It should be said with regard to data availability, that although the 6th Cohesion Report examines regional developments in GDP per head, employment and population as well as disparities across regions in some of the aspects mentioned above, it does not do so by Objective. Accordingly, it will not be possible to rely directly on the Report for the analysis which is specified in the Tender Document, though the data used in the Report, which come largely from Eurostat, will be deployed insofar as they are available.

The table below gives an overview of the main statistical information available in the Eurostat online database and other sources at sub-national level – in particular, at NUTS 2 regional level – which are relevant in this regard.

Overview of statistical information available for analysing regional disparities, 2006-2013

Variable/indicator	Period	Source	Coverage
Economic, employment, population			
GDP, GVA, GDP/GVA per head	2006-2011	Eurostat – Regional accounts	Data virtually complete at NUTS 2 as well as NUTS 3 level. Data by broad sector (14 sectors in total) are available but with more significant gaps.

¹ Examples include the Commission review of Waste policy and legislation, July 2014, (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/target_review.htm), especially the Commission Staff Working Document on the impact assessment on the Commission proposal for a review of the targets (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/pdf/target_review/ImpactAssessment.zip); the Synthesis report on the Quality of Drinking Water in the EU (COM(2014) 363 (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-drink/reporting_en.html)); a report on the Implementation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, which will contain 2012 data and which will be available later in 2014; and data which are due to be provided by Member States on compliance with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.

Variable/indicator	Period	Source	Coverage
Real growth rates of GVA (which take account of sector differences between regions)	2006-2010	Eurostat – Regional accounts	Data at NUTS 2 level are available only for the beginning of period for IE, EL, AT, RO, FI, SI, SK and for end of period for DE. Data for UK are available only at NUTS 1 level.
Numbers employed	2006-2010	Eurostat – Regional accounts	Data for numbers employed virtually complete at NUTS 2 and NUTS 3 levels. Data available by broad sector from 2008.
Numbers employed and employment rates	2006-2013	Eurostat – Labour Force Survey (LFS)	Data available for all countries and regions at NUTS 2 level for men and women and by age group.
Numbers employed in industry by sector	2008-2011	Eurostat - Structural Business Statistics	Data at NUTS 2 level and for NACE 2-digit manufacturing sectors (18) and construction reasonably complete for most countries, based on company surveys.
Numbers unemployed and Unemployment rates	2006-2013	Eurostat-LFS	Available for all NUTS 2 regions for men and women and by age group, especially those aged under 25 (youth unemployment) and those aged 25 and over.
Population	2006-2013 (at 1 Jan)	Eurostat - Demographic statistics	Data virtually complete except for NUTS 2 and NUTS 3 regions, by sex and 5-year age groups.
Population density (no. per square km), Net migration (total population change less change in births minus deaths)	2006-2012/2013	Eurostat- Demographic statistics	Data complete for most countries at NUTS 2 level (data missing for RO for 2012 and UK for 2011 and 2012). Data available at NUTS 3 level for fewer countries (missing some regions in DE and IT and all in PL).
Population by education attainment level	2006-2013	Eurostat - LFS	Data available for all NUTS 2 regions for men and women by 5-year age groups, divided into: less than upper secondary (ISCED 0-2), upper secondary (ISCED 3-4), tertiary (SCED 5-6)
Income and living conditions			
Disposable household income per head	2006-2011	Eurostat – Regional accounts	Data complete at the NUTS 2 level. The series gives an indication of the variation in living standards across regions (taking account of regional transfers as well as the income generated in the region as shown by GDP).
People at risk of poverty or social exclusion (Europe 2020 indicator - %)	2006-2012	Eurostat – EU-SILC	Data available at NUTS 1 or NUTS 2 levels for most countries, but not for DE, FR and UK. (Note that the indicator relates to an imprecise period – to the year of the survey for material deprivation but to the year before for those at-risk-of-poverty and those in low work intensity households.)
R&D and ICT			
R&D expenditure and personnel	2006-2012	Eurostat – Science and technology statistics	Data are available for all countries at NUTS 2 regions. Data for 2012 incomplete. For DK, DE, NL and SE data available only every other year. Data divided by business, higher education and government.
Patent applications to the European Patent Office	2006-2010	Eurostat – Science and technology statistics	Data available at both NUTS 2 and 3 levels for most countries, divided by section and class (i.e. sector) and related to population.
Households with internet and broadband (% total)	2006-2013	Eurostat – Information	Data at NUTS 2 level complete for most countries. Data at NUTS 1 level for DE, FR, PL.

Variable/indicator	Period	Source	Coverage
		Society statistics	
Transport			
Motorways and others roads (km)	2006-2012	Eurostat - Transport statistics	Data available at NUTS 2 level for most countries up to 2012. No data for EL and for DK after 2008. Data at NUTS 1 level for DE and PT.
Railways lines by number of tracks and whether electrified (km)	2006-2012	Eurostat - Transport statistics	Data available at NUTS 2 level for most countries. No regional data for BE and UK. Data for DE only for 2010, no national data for BE, EL and UK after 2010.
Number of passengers (and freight) travelling by air	2006-2012	Eurostat - Transport statistics	Data mainly complete at NUTS 2 level.
Environment			
Environmental protection expenditure	2006-2011	Eurostat - Environmental statistics	Data at NUTS 2 level very incomplete. No regional data for DE, FR, IT and UK.
Treatment of waste by different methods	2006-2011	Eurostat - Environmental statistics	Data at NUTS 2 level very incomplete. No data for ES and IT. Data available at the NUTS 1 level for most regions but only for 2006 and 2008.
Population connected to public water supply (%)	2006 - 2011	Eurostat - Environmental statistics	Data at regional level is very incomplete. No data for BE, EL, ES, IT, SK, PT after 2008. HU after 2009.
Population connected to urban wastewater collection system	2006-2011	Eurostat - Environmental statistics	Data at regional level very incomplete. No data for BE, EL, ES, FR, IT, PL, SK.
Health, tourism			
Number of doctors	2006-2012	Eurostat – Health statistics	Data reasonably complete at NUTS 2 level for most countries up to 2011. No regional data for UK and data for DE at NUTS 1 level.
Number of hospital beds	2006-2012	Eurostat – Health statistics	Data reasonably complete at NUTS 2 level for most countries up to 2011. No regional data for NL and UK. No data for EL after 2009. Data for DE at NUTS 1 level.
Number of tourist establishments, bedrooms and bed-places and occupancies	2006-2012	Eurostat – Tourism statistics	Data virtually complete at NUTS 2 level for both sets of data by type of accommodation (hotels, holiday, camping).

The culmination of the above analysis will be the production of a report on the main features of regional developments over the programming period of no more than 50 pages in length. A draft will be delivered at the beginning of December 2014, as in the case of the report on the macroeconomic context and the importance of the resources provided by the ERDF and Cohesion Fund, the analysis will be updated at the beginning of 2016 so that the main points to come out of it can feed into the Synthesis report. This will incorporate the latest data available on regional developments (up to 2012) to give an extended insight into regional developments and the changing extent of disparities. The updated report will be delivered at the beginning of March 2016.

Effects of the economic and financial crisis

The third part of Task 1 is to review the effects on the implementation of Cohesion Policy programmes of the economic and financial crisis that started in 2008 and to assess the reaction of Member States, and the Commission, to it. Two sources of information will be used for this purpose. The first is the findings from the Expert Evaluation Network on the performance of Cohesion Policy over the 2007-2013 period. The second is the authorities responsible for managing the programmes and experts who have followed developments.

The information assembled as part of the work of the Expert Evaluation Network indicates that the crisis affected the implementation of programmes in most Member States to varying degrees and there were differing responses to it in terms of the way that funding was deployed. The main effect was to slow down the rate of implementation for two main reasons. The first was the reduced demand for investment support on the part of enterprises because of the uncertainty attached to future market prospects which made them reluctant to invest. The second was the reduced ability of public authorities to co-finance projects and therefore to take up the EU funding available. In response to this difficulty the EU has increased its share of co-financing, without however expanding the overall amount of funding provided. This enabled Member States to cut back their funding for development expenditure but at the cost of overall investment being reduced. On the other hand, the response of Member States has been in many cases to shift funding between policy areas, so as to reduce funding in areas and on measures where it proved more difficult to get projects off the ground and to increase it there where it has a quicker and more direct impact on economic activity and employment.

The last is of particular relevance for the evaluation in that such shifts in funding might entail a move away from a focus of policy on alleviating long-term structural obstacles to development, which are at the centre of the rationale for Cohesion Policy intervention, towards a focus on countering the effects of the cyclical downturn and, accordingly, on the short-term objective of stimulating growth. By the same token, the shifts concerned could denote a parallel move away from the central objective of reducing regional disparities to increasing economic activity wherever it is possible, and easiest, to do given the national need for more growth and jobs, even at the cost of widening disparities.

The evidence compiled by the Expert Evaluation Network will be supplemented by a review of other information available and other studies carried out, on the issue. Most importantly, the issue will form the subject-matter of a seminar to be held with officials from the Member State authorities themselves who were responsible for managing the programmes to discuss the difficulties they faced over the period and the way they tackled them. More specifically, up to 35 representatives of the authorities concerned will be brought together for this purpose around April-May 2015, the exact timing depending on the compilation and review of the material which will form the background to – and basis for – the seminar.

The seminar will provide an opportunity not only for verifying the information collected on programme implementation, the problems experienced and the responses to them by both Member States and the Commission, but also for an exchange of views between the authorities concerned on these issues – what they have learned from the experience, the extent to which the issues are likely to continue to be important in the present period and how far the responses are likely to differ in the future as a result of what has been learned.

In addition to the seminar with Member States officials, a meeting of a group of leading academic experts (up to 10) will be arranged. This will be on the broad topic of 'growth-and job-friendly public interventions'. It will focus on the orientation of Cohesion Policy over the 2007-2013 period and how far policy responded to the crisis and helped to alleviate its effects. Related issues that will be considered include whether, from a 'growth- and job-friendly public intervention' perspective, there was a need for the allocation of funding and the kind of projects supported to have adapted to the changing economic circumstances over the period as well as the kinds of intervention that policy should focus on if the concern is with long-term sustainable growth and job creation.

The aim is to hold the meeting at the beginning of 2015, so that the discussion can inform the work on other WPs as well as that on WP1.

The experts to be invited to the meeting will also be discussed with Commission officials and decided at an early stage. Potential candidates include:

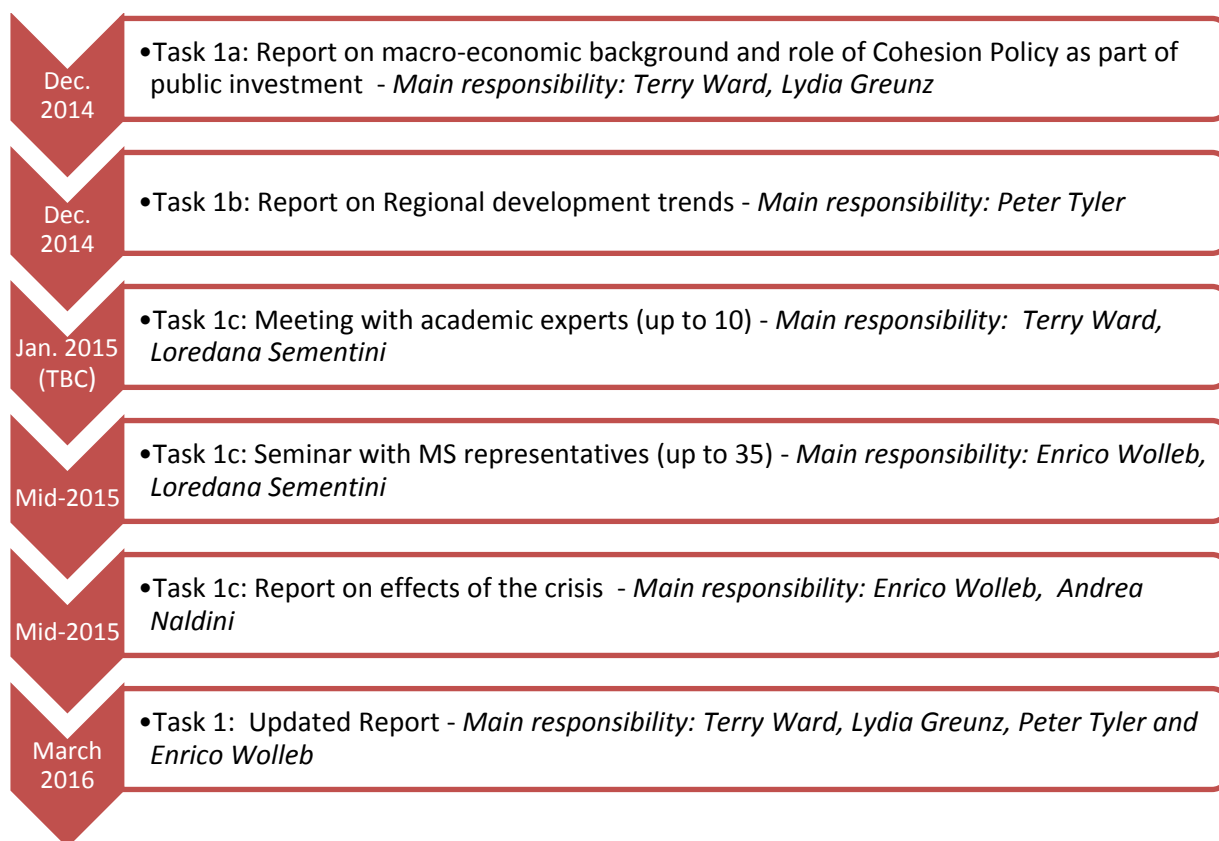
- **Jiří Blažek**, Associate Professor in regional development, regional policy and regional economics at the Department of Social Geography and Regional Geography, Faculty of Sciences, Charles University in Prague and member of the Policy Advisory Unit and later of the Task Force at the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic. He has participated in numerous evaluation studies and is author of many scientific papers on regional development and policy.
- **Uwe Blien**, Head of the Department for regional labour market analysis at the Institute for Employment Research (IAB) in Nürnberg, professor at the Otto Friedrich University in Bamberg and President of the "Gesellschaft für Regionalforschung" (GfR), the German-speaking section of the European Regional Science Association (ERSA). His main research interests are regional labour markets, regional policy, and the effects of structural change and institutions.
- **Sandor Kerekes**, Professor at Corvinus University of Budapest. His main fields of research are environmental economics, environmental management, environmental policy, corporate social responsibility, sustainable consumption and renewable energy.
- **Willem Molle**, Professor of Economics of International Integration at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam and recent recipient of an honorary doctorate from the University of Gdańsk for his contribution to the development of European economic integration. He is the author or co-author of several books and many scientific papers on the dynamics of integration, economic governance and cohesion.
- **Andrés Rodríguez-Pose**, Professor of Economic Geography at the London School of Economics Vice-President of the European Regional Science Association (2012-2017) and President-Elect of the Regional Science Association International.
- **Paweł Swianiewicz**, Professor of Economics and Head of the Department of Local Development and Policy at the Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies at the University of Warsaw adviser to the Polish President on local government issues and member of the Executive Board of European Urban Research Association (EURA). His research interests are local politics, local government finances, local and regional development, and the implementation of EU regional policies in Poland and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

- **Lena Tsipouri**, Associate Professor at the Department of Economic Sciences at the University of Athens and the chairperson for the EU Innovation for Growth Group. Her research interests are innovation, regional development and corporate governance. She has written recently on the Public Procurement of Innovation, the Greek economic crisis and issues relating to diversity and is currently preparing a policy brief on the role of Structural Funds in the Southern European countries.

The seminar with Member States will be organised as follows. First, a succinct summary note will be prepared on the effects of the crisis on the implementation of Cohesion Policy programmes based on the work of the Expert Evaluation Network over the past four years, other relevant Commission documents, the latest DG Regional Policy data on programme implementation and, where relevant, findings from evaluations covering the issue. The specific questions to be discussed with Member State representatives will then be identified on the basis of this note and the agenda for the seminar prepared in close collaboration with DG Regional Policy officials together with a list of the people to invite. The seminar will be organised in the first half of 2015. The preliminary note, the agenda and the questions to be debated will be circulated to all participants at least one week before the event. During the seminar, detailed notes and minutes will be taken by Consortium members and these will be combined with the initial note to produce a short report on the seminar.

The meeting with the academic experts will be organised in a similar way, a note setting out the issues to be covered and the main points to come out of the analysis already undertaken will be circulated in advance and an agenda prepared accordingly. As in the case of the seminar, a report on the discussion, summarising the views expressed, will be prepared by the core team after the event.

Task 1 – Timetable



Task 2 – Assembling information on financial implementation

The concern of this task is to compile and review the data available on the financial implementation of the programmes co-financed by the ERDF and Cohesion Fund. The purpose is to examine how the funding provided, together with the national co-financing, was allocated between countries, regions and Objectives, the policy areas in which it was spent and how this compared with what was planned. An additional concern is to estimate the number of projects supported in each Member State, distinguishing between the ERDF and Cohesion Fund and dividing the number by Operational Programme (OP).

In operational terms, the work will be split into three sub-tasks:

- assembling and processing the financial data to identify the main features by calculating simple ratios or shares;
- interpreting and analysing the data and preparing a succinct report bringing out the main conclusions that can be drawn as regards the financial implementation of programmes over the period;
- assembling the data on the projects carried out in Member States in suitable form to enable the number co-financed by the ERDF and Cohesion Fund in the different Operational Programmes to be separately calculated.

Assembling and processing the data

The terms of reference in the Tender Document list the data which need to be assembled as a minimum. These are considered in turn below, indicating the main features which it is intended to bring out in each case.

The number of OPs

The number of OPs into which funding is channelled in each country will be grouped in terms of Objectives and those that are regional in scope will be distinguished from those which are national and focus on a particular sector or policy area in the country (such as transport).

The allocation of funding

The amount of financing from the ERDF and Cohesion Fund, together with the matching co-financing from national sources, allocated to the various OPs in each country under each of the Objectives will be identified and the final allocation will be compared with what was initially planned to bring out any changes in allocation which occurred over the period.

Payments

The data on payments from the two Funds made by the Commission each year to Member States to cover expenditure carried out on programmes, and claimed for, will be compiled for each country under each Objective. The focus will be on the profile of payments over the period in relation to the overall amount of funding available (as indicated above) and the rate at which the funding allocated for the period (as distinguished above) has been spent, as well as the amount remaining unspent. Although the data on payments are a lagged indicator of the expenditure carried out on the ground and, accordingly, of the rate of implementation of programmes, in that there are inevitable delays – which can be lengthy – between such expenditure and Member States claiming the funding for it and receiving payment from the Commission, they are the most meaningful source of information on

this. In particular, relating the time profile of payments to the profile in the previous programming period should give a reasonable indication of the rate of implementation of programmes, assuming that the various lags between the expenditure taking place and payments being made remain broadly the same.

Categorisation of funding

Data will be assembled on the division of the funding allocated between categories of expenditure under the different Objectives in each of the countries, both initially when programme plans were first agreed and according to the latest information from OPs, which, in practice, will be as at the end of 2014 as indicated in the Annual Implementation Reports for the year (which will appear in mid-2015). The concern will be to aggregate the data by detailed category (the 86 priority themes) into 6 broad policy areas (enterprise support, human resources, transport, the environment and energy, territorial development – essentially everything else apart from technical assistance – and a limited number of more detailed areas within each of these in order to gain an overview of the policy priorities in the different Member States. This will, therefore, indicate how much policy effort has been put into, say, strengthening the transport system, and the rail network within this, relative to other areas. Comparing the division of funding at the end of the period (or close to the end) with that at the beginning will indicate how priorities changed over the years – in response perhaps to the crisis or spending difficulties in particular areas, which is clearly linked with the third part of Task 1 above.

Commitments

Data are available not only on the amount of funding allocated to the different categories of expenditure, and priority themes, but also on the funding committed to selected projects in each case. These data will be examined to identify the extent of over- or under-commitment of funding between both different policy areas and Member States and to assess the usefulness of the data concerned. A particular issue to consider will be the extent to which the data can be used to judge the rate of implementation of programmes, including in respect of how the figures change over time, as well as their comparability across countries.

De-commitments

Information will be assembled on the amount of funding withdrawn from Member States as a result of them falling foul of the n+2/n+3 regulation, which essentially requires the funding being spent within two or three years (depending on whether countries receive Cohesion Fund support or not) of it being made available. Up to the end of 2013, some EUR 204.4 million of the ERDF and EUR 30.4 million of the Cohesion Fund support available had been de-committed because of a failure of Managing Authorities to spend in time. Most of the de-commitments occurred in 2103. More than half of the de-commitments of the ERDF were in respect of OPs in Romania (EUR 125.2 million), while all of the de-commitments of the Cohesion Fund occurred in respect of transport investment in the same country. It remains to relate the de-commitments concerned together with those in other countries and those made in 2014 to the overall funding allocated to the OPs affected as well as to that allocated to the countries in question under each of the Objectives.

Co-financing

Information will be compiled on the rate of national co-financing of expenditure for each country under each of the Objectives and the way that it has changed over the period, to the extent that it has. In practice, national co-financing rates have been reduced in recent years for a number of countries, most especially southern EU15 Member States, in order to relieve some of the pressure on

their public finances resulting from the crisis. The reduction in the amount of matching funding that the governments concerned needed to find, therefore, made it easier for them to carry out programmes, though of course on a smaller scale than initially planned (given that the effective increase in the EU co-financing rate was not accompanied by any increase in the funding made available). The concern, accordingly, will be to set out both the changes in national co-financing rates and the implication of these for the overall amount of funding going into development expenditure.

Financial instruments

The funding going into financial instruments from the ERDF will be separated so far as possible from that allocated to other forms of finance because of the special features of these. In particular, such funding is treated as being spent once it goes into a financial instrument rather than when it reaches the final recipients (which in most cases are business enterprises, mainly SMEs). The data presented will therefore include the support provided by the ERDF to different forms of financial instrument (loan funds, venture capital funds and so on) in the different countries under each of the Objectives and the funds paid out to final recipients of support from the instruments in question.

The two main sources of data will be, first, the latest available version of the annual summary of data on the progress made in financing and implementing financial engineering instruments co-financed by Structural Funds² and, secondly, data collected by WP3, which is specifically concerned with evaluating venture capital and loan funds.

The Territorial Units in DG Regional Policy might provide a further useful source of information on all the various types of data listed above, especially as regards any peculiarities that relate to national systems of reporting. Any approach to these will be coordinated with officials in the Evaluation unit and will be preceded by the preparation of a clear request for specific details. Beyond this, the Managing Authorities in the Member States themselves which are responsible for reporting the data represent the ultimate source of information. When and if it proves necessary to approach these, the national experts listed above will be used to assist communication.

Analysing the data and producing a succinct report

Once the various sets of data indicated above are assembled, they will be analysed to bring out what they indicate about the financial implementation of programmes in the different countries over the period. Tables and graphs – and possibly maps to the extent that they aid comprehension – will be prepared which highlight the main features of the data, to show, in particular, the allocation of funding between Objectives, Member States, regions and policy areas and the way that it has changed since the programmes were first drawn up. A succinct report will then be drafted around the tables and graphs, focusing on the main points which come out of the analysis and what they imply as regards the development policy pursued in the different Member States and regions and how this was modified over the period, perhaps in response to the crisis or as a result of it.

The data assembled and the findings of the analysis, it should be noted, will feed into a number of the other tasks to be carried out as part of the project. In particular, it will provide an input into the country reports (see Task 3 below) and will form some of the data to be compiled for publication on the DG Regional Policy website (Task 4) as well as, of course, feed into the Synthesis report (Task 7).

² Data reported by managing authorities in accordance with Article 67(2)(j) of Council Regulation (EC) No.1083/2006. The data up to the end of 2012 were published in September 2013 and data up to the end of 2013 are likely to become available around the same time in 2014.

A preliminary compilation of the data will be made around the end of 2014-beginning of 2015 to check the situation as regards the financial implementation at that time. This will help in the preparation of the country reports, a first draft of which needs to be completed around mid-2015. A final compilation of the various bits of data and an analysis of them will be carried out at the beginning of 2016.

Estimating the number of projects

The other part of Task 2 is to estimate the number of projects co-financed by the ERDF and Cohesion Fund in the various OPs. The main source of information in this regard is the list of beneficiaries published by the Managing Authorities.

The approach which will be adopted to carry out the sub-task will be:

- to begin by checking all the websites of the programmes, assessing the lists published in terms of their completeness and clarity and extracting the relevant information, converting information in pdf format into Excel when doing so;
- setting up a databank containing the following information organised by OP:
 - funding source (ERDF or Cohesion Fund);
 - number of projects co-financed up to the end of 2014;
 - total amount of public funding (which while not required by the terms of reference is useful, if not essential, for interpreting the number of projects and their significance in relation to policy objectives).
- identifying the OPs with unclear information where it is necessary to contact Managing Authorities for clarification and adding the information to the database, or correcting the information already included once a satisfactory response is received;
- preparing a short report or a note on the data compiled to describe the contents of the database.

In addition to estimating the number of projects, as required in the Tender Document, an attempt will be made to classify the projects by broad policy area (enterprise support, RTDI, transport and so on) so far as possible. Projects are listed in most cases by Priority Axis and this should give a first indication of which policy areas they should be classified to. Although an axis can cover more than one policy area, in practice, there is usually a main one in which most projects belong. Where there is some uncertainty— where, for example, a particular priority axis is relatively wide-ranging – the name of the project will in most cases indicate the relevant policy area and, while the name will be in the national language, a Google translation should usually be good enough to identify what the project is about and how it should be classified.

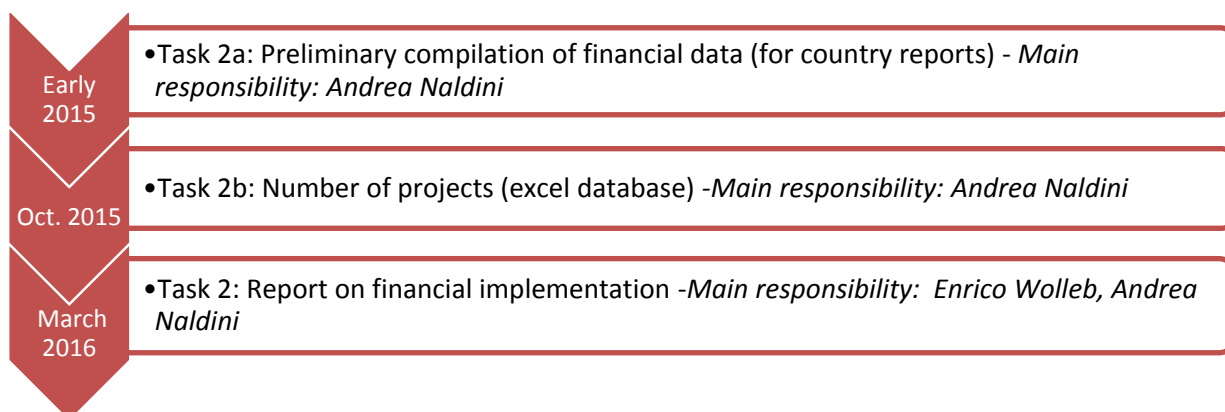
Given the very large number of projects involved, however, and the differing ways in which the information is presented by Managing Authorities, it remains to be investigated how far it is feasible to produce a full classification of projects with the amounts of expenditure entailed – or, more precisely, the degree of approximation which might be required to make the task viable. This will depend on how far the task can be automated by the use of computer software routines to extract the information required from the lists of projects in question.

In carrying out the work, the team will make use of the 4 languages (English, French, German and Italian) which members are fluent in and, where necessary for clarifying information and approaching

Managing Authorities, they will contact the national experts for the relevant country whose names are listed above.

The database in Excel format will be delivered in October 2015.

Task 2 – Timetable



Task 3 – Development and achievements in Member States

Task 3 consists of preparing a short report on each of the 28 Member States summarising the regional developments which occurred over the period and the achievements of Cohesion Policy. The issues that it will be covered are:

- the main trends in regional development and in the development policy pursued;
- an overview of the (financial) implementation of Cohesion Policy programmes over the period;
- a link to the list of beneficiaries of funding published by the Member State concerned;
- the outcome of the expenditure co-financed by the ERDF and Cohesion Fund at regional and national level;
- summary details of the major transport and environmental projects carried out;
- relevant findings from the evaluations undertaken by the other WPs;
- examples of good practice identified in these.

The purpose, therefore, is to produce for each Member State an overview of the outcomes of the programmes supported under Cohesion Policy and of the context in which they were carried out. This will be based on the information produced by Task 1 and 2 above and by the other WPs. The approach that will be adopted to extract relevant information from other WPs is described below. A major additional source of information will be the country reports on the performance of Cohesion Policy over the period produced by the Expert Evaluation Network and the Synthesis reports which summarise the main findings, especially the 2013 report which focused on the achievements of programmes up to the end of 2012. The information there will be updated to the end of 2013 and modified as necessary, by the data on indicators compiled by WPO, which is in the process of checking, and correcting where necessary, the data reported by Member States (and published in the Annual Implementation Reports) which are stored in the Structural Funds Common (SFC) database.

Drafts of the country reports will be prepared during the first part of 2015. These will indicate the main development trends over the programming period, the way that the ERDF and, where relevant, the Cohesion Fund have been used and the changes in the allocation of funding that occurred over the period and the outcomes which have resulted.

Final drafts of the country reports incorporating data from the AIRs for 2014, as included in the SFC database, as well as additional findings from the other WPs and the updated data analysis under Tasks 1 and 2 will be produced at the beginning of 2016. The country reports will be written in a clear, concise and easily accessible way to set out developments over the 2007-2013 period and the role of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund in supporting both national and regional policy. They will outline the underlying context in which programmes were implemented and highlight the obstacles arising from both the crisis itself and institutional factors specific to the different countries. Accordingly, they will take account of the Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) made by the Commission over the period and will make use of the analysis contained in the Staff Working Documents on which the CSRs are based as an additional source of information.

In preparing the country reports, differences in the policies pursued and in the outcomes between the regions receiving funding under the Convergence Objective and those receiving funding under the Competitiveness and Employment Objective will be brought out where relevant (i.e. where there are material differences). The nature of the programmes implemented under the European Territorial Cooperation Objective (ETC) in which the country in question is involved will also be outlined and the outcomes summarised, to the extent that they can be identified³. The latter will be heavily reliant on the findings of WP11 on this Objective, since ETC programmes tend to be covered only in a very general terms in the AIRs and the physical indicators of outcomes are not in many cases particularly meaningful as guides to achievements (e.g. number of cross-border events organised).

Every effort will be made to ensure that the country reports are no more than 15 pages in length. They will have a common format to facilitate comparison between them. Carefully designed tables, graphs and maps, where if appropriate, will be included to bring out the main points in as clear and informative way as possible. The data on which the report will be based will be prepared in Excel tables with a common structure to feed into the spreadsheet application developed under Task 4 (see below). Internet hyperlinks will be included where appropriate in the reports to further or more detailed sources, such as to the case studies carried out as part of the various WPs, as well as to the list of beneficiaries of Cohesion Policy support.

A pilot report will be prepared in the first two months of 2015 to test the structure and style. An initial outline is set out below.

County reports - Outline of content and sources of information

- **Executive summary:** a one-page summary of the main messages
- **Policy context and background:** The section will bring out the underlying economic conditions in the country over the period, the nature and scale of regional disparities and how far they changed and the effect of the crisis on them as well as on the development policy pursued. The main sources of information will be the country reports of the Expert

³ Coverage of ETC programmes is not an explicit requirement for Task 3 in the ToR set out in the Tender document, but it is implicit since outcomes need to be covered 'by region' and 'evaluation findings from all work packages' need to be covered.

Evaluation Network on the performance of Cohesion Policy over the 2007-2013 period, especially the first section, and the results of the analysis carried out under Task 1 above.

- **Main features of Cohesion Policy implementation:** This section will be based on the data compiled under Task 2. It will focus on the nature of the programmes, the way they complement national policies and support development, the scale of funding going to the different policy areas and the changes in this over the period, the time profile of expenditure, the problems encountered in carrying out programmes and the measures taken in response to these (as indicated in the country reports of the Expert Evaluation Network as well as by the evaluations carried out by the various WPs as part of the present exercise). It will include links to the beneficiaries of ERDF and the Cohesion Fund support. (As well as the findings of WP11 to indicate the nature of cross-border programmes, the results of WP13 'Geography of Expenditure' could possibly provide an additional input, though since the terms of reference for this have not yet been published, it remains to be seen.)
- **Outcome of Cohesion Policy programmes:** This section will review the achievements made by the programmes co-financed by the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund in the period. The focus will be on tangible outputs and results in the different broad policy areas as covered by the various WPs which are part of the present ex post evaluation exercise (support for SMEs, ICT and innovation – including through the use of venture capital and loan funds – large enterprises, transport, the environment, energy efficiency, culture and tourism, urban development and social infrastructure) as well as support for the development of renewable energies which is not covered by the WPs. It will be based on the relevant section in the country reports produced by the Expert Evaluation Network, updated and modified as necessary by the core indicator and other data compiled by WPO and, in the final versions of the reports, by the data contained in the SFC database up to the end of 2014. It will also make use of relevant material produced by the evaluations carried out by the other WPs in the broad policy areas listed above and will summarise the findings of these as well as including links to more detailed information, such as in the case studies of specific programmes or regions carried out. It will also summarise the findings, where appropriate, of any new evaluations of Cohesion Policy programmes undertaken in the country concerned. (This includes findings of *ex post* evaluations, in particular, though these are likely to be very limited in number especially given the timing of the present exercise.) The national experts will be used where necessary in this regard. An indication of the significance of the achievements identified will be given so far as possible by relating them to baseline figures (such as the generating capacity of renewables at the beginning of the period or the length of the existing motorway network), many of which will have been assembled under the second part of Task 1 above.
- **Major projects:** This section will outline the major transport and environmental infrastructure projects carried out with ERDF or Cohesion Fund support and the outcomes insofar as they can be identified, in terms of both the output (e.g. the stretch of a by-pass constructed or the length of main drainage laid) and the results (e.g. the reduction in journey times or the population connected to wastewater treatment), as well as their contribution to meeting EU objectives (e.g. extending the trans-European transport network or complying with environmental Directives). It will also, where possible, indicate the cost effectiveness of the expenditure concerned (the benefits, including 'social', relative to costs). It will be based on the results of WPO, which is intended to identify the major projects that have been

undertaken or are underway. It will also, where relevant, make use of the findings of WP5 on Transport and WP6 on the Environment, as well as perhaps of those of WP7 on the modelling of the effects of transport projects.

- **The management of Cohesion policy:** This section will focus on the way that policy was administered over the period. It will not only summarise the institutional setting and systems in place for doing this, but it will assess the capacity of the authorities concerned for managing the deployment of funding and the selection and monitoring of projects carried out. Most relevantly, it will also consider the extent to which these various aspects have affected the outcomes of programmes and the effectiveness of policy. This will be based primarily on the findings of WP12 on the delivery system but it will make use too of the findings of the other WPs insofar as they cover the implementation of policy in the broad areas concerned.
- **Good practice and lessons:** This section will present summary details of examples of good practice identified in the various WPs as regards 'Cohesion Policy-making' in the country concerned, which might relate to the planning and design of interventions, the selection of projects, the monitoring and evaluation system in operation and so on. It will, however, go beyond the ToR to consider the lessons which can be drawn from the examples and the factors which underlie their success. It will also, to the extent that it is possible, indicate examples of bad practice, or aspects of weakness in the way that policy is implemented or managed, insofar as these are identified in the WPs. A major purpose, in the case of examples of good practice, is to give ideas to others and to encourage the wider adoption of the approaches or methods identified or, in the opposite case, to highlight the deficiencies concerned and to deter others from following suit. Internet links will therefore be included to more detailed information wherever they are available.

In practice, the first step will be to prepare a template of the country reports and to discuss it with DG Regional Policy officials. It will specify the precise issues to be covered in each section and a common set of tables, graphs and maps to be included. Once the pilot report has been produced and the template – and structure – for the reports modified where it seems desirable to do so, work will begin on preparing the reports for all the other countries on the basis of the same structure.

Approach to extracting relevant information from other WPs

The table below provides an overview of the indicative dates of delivery of the main results by the various WPs that have been launched at the time of completing this inception report (12 August) and which are relevant for the production of the country papers. The planning is based on the time schedule of deliverables specified in the ToRs of the respective WPs, or, in some cases, which has been communicated by DG Regional Policy officials. It assumes that all WPs start on the planned signature dates. The table does not cover WP5 (Transport), WP6 (Environment), WP11 (European Territorial Cooperation) and WP13 (Geography of expenditure) which have not yet been launched and for which the ToRs and dates of deliverables are consequently not at present available.

Timetable for extracting relevant information from the WPs

Dates	Deliverables from various WPs
July 2014	WP0 – Task 2: Revised indicators up to end 2012 (based on 2012 AIRs)
Nov. 2014	WP9 – Task 1: Literature review and typology of support
Dec. 2014	WP1 - Task 1a: Macroeconomic background; Task 1b: Report on regional development trends WP3 – Task 1: Support for FEIs, Task 2: Literature review WP4 – Task 1: Support to large enterprises, Task 2: Literature review
Jan. 2015	WP0 – Task 2a: Revised indicators up to end-2013 (based on 2013 AIRs); Task 2c: Other outputs and results; Task 3: Major projects (from 2013 AIRs) WP1 – Task 1c: Report on Meeting with academic experts WP2 – Task 1: Main instruments; Task 2: Literature review WP12 – Task 1: Analysis of delivery systems 2007-2013
Feb. 2015	WP0 – Final report WP10 – Task 1: Distribution of investments and reported outputs; Task 2: Analysis of OPs and AIRs and Survey of Mas
March 2015	WP8 – Task 1: Support for energy efficiency and literature review; Task 2: Review of ERDF and CF support
April 2015	WP9 - Task 3: 6 case studies on programmes and mini case studies on projects
May 2015	WP1 – Task 1c: Report on seminar with MSs on effects of crisis WP2 – Findings from seminar, Task 3: 8 case studies on regions/programmes WP8 – Task 3: 6 case studies WP12 – Report on interviews, structured discussions and survey
June 2015	WP1 – Task 1c: Report on effects of the crisis WP3 – Task 3: 9 case studies on programmes WP4 – Task 3: 8 case studies on programmes WP8 – Findings from seminar and draft final report WP10 – Findings from seminar, Task 3: Survey of project implementation bodies, Task 1 Cross-task analysis
First draft of country reports	
July 2015	WP3 – Findings from seminar WP4 – Findings from seminar WP8 – Final report WP9 – Findings from seminar WP10 – Final report
Aug. 2015	WP12 – Task 3: Case studies in 8 MS
Sept. 2015	WP9 – Final report WP12 – Task 4: Technical assistance for capacity building
Oct. 2015	WP2 – Task 4: Result of 3 theory based impact evaluations
Nov. 2015	WP3 – Final report WP4 – Final report
Dec. 2015	WP2 – Draft final report WP12 – Draft final report
Country reports	

The task of compiling the reports for each Member State will be coordinated by the Core team members each of whom will take responsibility for a group of countries according to their experience:

- **Applica:** Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland Sweden;
- **Ismeri Europa:** Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain;
- **CEA:** Ireland, UK.

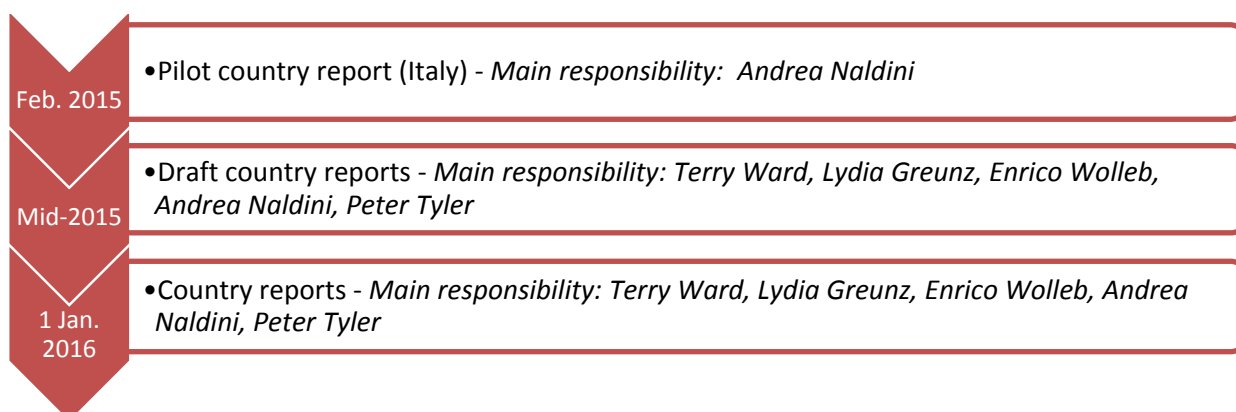
All the documents delivered by the other WPs will be uploaded immediately after reception from DG Regional Policy on to a website which will be created for the specific use of the project. Revised versions of the documents, modified in the light of comments from DG Regional Policy and participants at Steering Committee meetings as well as from members of the core team, will replace initial drafts as soon as they become available. All team members will have access to the website and will be informed each time a new document is uploaded, with a special mention made when the documents are 'final' versions (i.e. those accepted as such by DG Regional Policy). The reviews and assessments of these documents by members of the core team will also be uploaded. In producing these, the core team members concerned will make special note of any findings or pieces of analysis which are of relevance for particular countries and will follow these up in the final reports when they become available. They will then produce brief summaries of these together with a reference to identify the particular report and the precise location in it. These will be included in a separate file – one for each WP –so that the information can be readily accessed by those responsible for preparing the country reports.

In practice the production of the country reports will be an ongoing exercise in the sense that new pieces of information will be added to the drafts, once they are produced, as new reports and results from the WPs become available. The work of 'information mining' from other WPs will start in July 2014 with the delivery of the revised core indicators with data up to end-2012 by WPO and will go on up until the final country reports are produced in January 2016. National experts will be used as necessary to follow up with Managing Authorities in the country concerned any data or points which need clarification or where important information is missing, as well as providing summary details of any new evaluations of programmes which have been undertaken which are relevant to take account of.

For Croatia, the report will have the same format and the same kind of content so far as possible as for the other Member States but it will be prepared initially by a national expert, **Marijana Sumpor** of the Institute of Economics in Zagreb. The core team will provide support, together with any relevant data available, including those prepared under Tasks 1 and 2.

The drafts of the country reports will be edited by native English speakers in the Consortium before they are sent to DG Regional Policy for review and comment. All the reports will be read by the operational units of DG Regional Policy and sent to the appropriate authorities in the Member States concerned to check for any inaccuracies or misleading statements. Any comments received from this consultation process will be taken into account when preparing the final versions which will be delivered in January 2016.

Task 3 – Timetable



Task 4 – Preparation of data for an electronic map, Open Data approach, evaluation library

The *ex post* evaluation is an important vehicle for informing national and regional authorities as well as the general public about the outcomes of the 2007-2013 Cohesion Policy programmes. To increase the usefulness of the evaluation, the intention is to make the data assembled in the course of undertaking it publicly available on the DG Regional Policy website in an easily accessible form, possibly by using an interactive map with a breakdown by NUTS 2 regions where appropriate.

Preparation of data for an electronic map

The purpose of the first part of Task 4 is to assist this process by organising the main datasets compiled for the evaluation, in particular those used for the preparation of the country templates under Task 3 and potentially others used to analyse regional developments, and regional disparities under Task 1 as well as possibly some of the financial data assembled under Task 2. It remains to be discussed and agreed with DG Regional Policy which datasets will be made available in the easily accessible form envisaged and, indeed, in what precise format.

At a minimum all the data which form the basis for Task 3 will be covered. As indicated above, the country reports will be designed to communicate the main features of developments. They will include a few carefully designed tables, graphs and maps if appropriate to demonstrate the main messages but they will not include any more detailed data. These instead will be covered by a set of Excel tables which will be the basis for the spreadsheet application and which those interested will be able to consult and make use of as they wish.

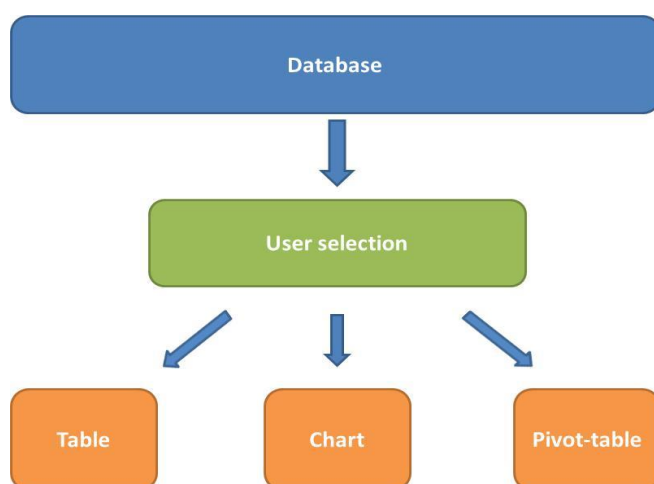
The form in which the data concerned will be prepared for easy input into an interactive map application or some other form, so that it is possible readily to see the regional location of the funding provided, the expenditure incurred and the projects carried is set out in the following section.

Application design

The spreadsheet application will be built using Excel 2010. It will be developed using dynamic named ranges and built-in formulae available within the standard version of Excel 2010, i.e. it will not use any add-ins or macros (VBA). Avoiding use of macros, in particular, is important to ensure the widest possible accessibility of the application since it is standard practice for IT security systems to block the use of spreadsheets containing macros, which could potentially contain malicious code.

The concept for the design of the application is to use series of database pages, which can be queried via a user friendly interface to produce standardised tables, pivot-tables and charts presenting the information requested (Figure 1). In principle the application will be divided up into sections according to the data which it is intended to make available – i.e. there will be a number of sections corresponding to the different kinds of data concerned (e.g. those on GDP, GDP per head or unemployment indicating the context or the way that the economic situation changed over the period or those indicating outcomes, such as the number of gross jobs directly created or the length of motorway constructed) each of which will have a set of custom tables or charts that can be accessed. Some sections might have more than one page to accommodate different presentations of the data.

Figure 1 – Design concept for the spreadsheet application



Each section page (or pages) will have an associated database page, although it may not be necessary to have a database for each section as it may be possible for some sections to share a common database page. This will depend on the detailed structure of the data required for each section, and on the volume of data available, which remains to be determined in the course of the project. The aim will be to keep the number of database pages down to a minimum based on practical and efficient design of the data model.

Database pages will follow a simple structure with identifying fields (e.g. country, region (NUTS code), CCI code) and data fields (Figure 2). Such pages will be able to be exported directly to a CSV format that will facilitate direct use in Excel or transfer into the mapping application to be implemented by DG-Regional Policy.

As noted above, the databases will be defined in the workbook using dynamic named ranges, a method that allows data to be added at any time without having to adjust the formulae, tables or pivot tables that access the database. For dissemination purposes, the database pages can be hidden and protected in the final application in order to ensure that the data cannot be changed by users, though the extent to which the data are protected in this way will be discussed and agreed with DG Regional Policy.

Figure 2 – Example database page

Country	Region	CCI	Field1	Field2	Field3
BE	BE1	2009BE051PO001	123	456	78.9	
BE	BE10	2009BE051PO001	111	222	33.3	
BE	BE2	2009BE021PO017	444	555	66.6	
BE	BE2	2009BE127PO006	321	432	54.3	
...				

The spreadsheet will include an index as the first page with an overview of contents pointing users to the relevant page (e.g. the table or data section). Each user page will then have a simple indication of content and instructions on use. Typically, a section page would allow the user to select the data of interest via one or more drop-down filters – for example to select the region (Figure 3) or variable of interest. On selection, a predefined table or chart would be automatically updated to show the relevant information. In other cases, there could be a predefined pivot table which users can modify to set out the data that they are interested in.

Figure 3 – Example dropdown for user selection

In developing the application for ease of use and dissemination, attention will be paid to the size of the file. If necessary, the application could be split into two or more separate files broken down by section.

The application will be designed in consultation with the appropriate unit in DG Regional Policy.

Evaluation library

The second part of Task 4 consists of selecting 50 evaluations from the list of evaluations assembled by the Expert Evaluation Network over the past three years and of preparing short summaries of these for inclusion in DG Regional Policy's evaluation library.

At the moment the library includes 104 evaluations of the 830 or more which are estimated to have been carried out on interventions supported by the ERDF and Cohesion Fund⁴. The steps which will be followed in adding summaries of another 50 evaluations to the library consist of:

- selecting the ones to include from those carried out in Member States over the 2007-2013 period, giving priority to those completed up to the end of 2012;
- obtaining permission from the Member States concerned for the publication of a short summary;

⁴ See Expert Evaluation Network on the performance of Cohesion Policy, 2007-2013 - Synthesis of National Reports 2013 (January 2014). Data on evaluations refer to October 2013. In addition, some interesting evaluations funded by national authorities without ERDF support are mentioned in the country reports of the Expert Evaluation Network and could be included in the library.

- drafting the summaries according to the standard format defined by DG Regional Policy.

Selecting the evaluations

The evaluations selected will so far as possible be representative of those carried out over the period while at the same time being examples of the kinds of evaluation which DG Regional Policy wants to encourage. The selection will, therefore, take account of the country in which the evaluation was carried out, the policy area concerned, the type of evaluation (e.g. mid-term, on-going or *ex post*), the method used and the techniques deployed as well as, above all, the quality of the evaluation. The starting-point will be the evaluations indicated in country reports of the Network to exemplify good practice.

For the evaluations on the list which are in a language which is not known to team members, a Google translation will be made to enable the evaluation to be assessed. Where the translation proves not to be good enough to obtain a reasonable understanding of the contents of an evaluation and of its merits, the evaluation will be sent to a national expert to give an assessment.

Obtaining permission for publication

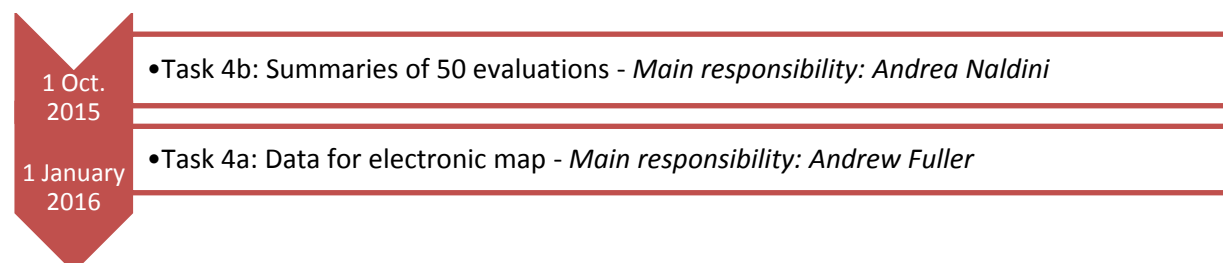
The team will prepare a standard letter for DG Regional Policy to send to the Member States concerned to request permission to include the evaluations selected in the library.

Drafting the summaries

At present, the evaluations included in the library are classified according to theme (or policy area), type (*ex ante*, mid-term, etc.), country and language. The summaries consist of a few sentences describing the scope, the method used and the findings. While the way that they are classified enables a reasonable search to be made, some improvements are possible. In particular, the theme could be more clearly identified (such as in relation to those classed as dealing with ‘territorial cohesion’ or the difference between ‘administrative capacity’ and ‘governance’ and perhaps including only one ‘Other’ category instead of two – though consideration should be given to removing an ‘Other’ category entirely) and the ‘type’ might usefully be expanded beyond the 5 distinguished.

The summaries produced of the evaluations selected will conform to the standard format which DG Regional Policy has established – and will take account of any improvements made in the system of classification and in the contents of the summaries included. They will also be drafted in good English and checked by an experienced native English-speaking editor to ensure this (something which some of the summaries at present published in the library would benefit from).

Task 4 – Timetable



Task 5 – Support to Commission services

The work under Task 5 consists of providing assistance and support to DG Regional Policy in coordinating the overall *ex post* evaluation. The aim is to ensure, so far as possible, that the reports produced by the various WPs are of high quality and provide the best estimates possible – given their timing, budget and duration – of the outcome of Cohesion Policy support in the areas concerned over the 2007-2013 period. This entails assessing the quality of the reports and the findings and, where needed, providing constructive proposals for improving the analysis. It also involves identifying findings which seem to be emerging, or which could potentially be drawn, which could usefully be included in the synthesis report as well as in the country reports.

More specifically, the work entails following each of the WPs from its beginning through to its completion. It involves reading and assessing the output – the inception, interim, draft final and final reports as well as any case studies or other papers produced – and participating in the steering group meetings arranged to discuss the output, as well as the methods and data which it is planned to use. It also entails attending any seminars held, whether with representatives of relevant national or regional authorities or with experts. In each case, the concern will be to judge the appropriateness of the analysis carried out and the effectiveness of the way that it has been undertaken, to give a critical appraisal of the methods employed, the techniques applied, the data used and the form of presentation and to check the validity of the conclusions and of any recommendations made. It will equally be to give constructive advice and guidance where relevant on how these various aspects might be improved. (The questions that will be considered when reviewing the output of WPs are set out in the Box.) Shortly after each report or paper is delivered by a WP, a concise written assessment will, be prepared covering these various aspects and sent to DG Regional Policy in time for it to be considered before the meeting at which it will be discussed (wherever possible – i.e. when receipt of the report allows it, at least two days before the meeting concerned).

Guiding questions for assessing WPs

- Are the evaluation questions clearly spelled out? Do they correspond to what was requested in the Tender Document and agreed in the Inception Report?
- Does the study exploit existing knowledge? Has a satisfactory literature review been undertaken?
- Is the evaluation design based on a clear hypothesis of the means by which the interventions achieve the policy objectives set?
- Is the approach adopted appropriate? Is it clearly explained? Does it correspond to what was requested and agreed?
- Are the methods and techniques of analysis deployed suitable? Are they correctly implemented?
- Are the data used the most relevant and reasonably reliable? Has sufficient effort been made to collect the most appropriate data and have they been satisfactorily adjusted where necessary?
- Are the results produced from any quantitative analysis robust? Has a sensitivity check been carried out?
- Do the conclusions reached follow directly from the analysis? Are they based firmly on the evidence Are they clearly and unbiasedly presented?
- Do any policy recommendations made follow logically from the findings?
- Is the report complete and well written?

While the main purpose of the Task 5 is to support DG Regional Policy in carrying out a quality control of the various WP as they are undertaken, it is important to take stock of the findings since

they constitute an essential input into the Synthesis report and the country papers produced under Task 3.

The issues to be considered when assessing the output of the WPs from this perspective are somewhat different from those which are relevant for judging the analysis carried out which were indicated above, in the sense that they relate more to the actual findings themselves (see Box).

Guiding questions for assessing WP findings for input into the Synthesis report

- Are the objectives of the interventions being considered clearly identified?
- Is the rationale for the interventions clearly set out or and critically appraised as being justified?
- Are operational objectives set, or target, verifiable and have they been achieved?
- Can the results or effect of the interventions be identified? What are they?
- Are the results or effects in line with what was intended or planned?
- What have been the costs of achieving the outcomes identified? Do the outcomes justify the expenditure incurred?
- Are the interventions concerned likely to have beneficial long-term effects beyond what they have achieved up to now?

Terry Ward, the Director of the project, will be the main person responsible for providing the support required under this task and will monitor the work carried out by the other WPs and their findings. He will be assisted by core members of the team as set out in the table below who will provide similar support, so that at least two people are involved in assessing and commenting on the work undertaken in every WP. This will help to ensure that the comments made are both pertinent and comprehensive.

As should be clear from the above, the support to Commission services will be an ongoing exercise starting in July 2014 with the delivery of the revised core indicators of the AIRs 2012 from WPO and the inception report of WP2 and will go on up until beginning of 2016 with the delivery of last Final report. A timetable of the deliverables from the WPs, based on current knowledge of the schedule in each case, is set out at the end of the document.

Task 5 – Main responsibilities

Work Packages	Main responsibilities
WPO – Data	Terry Ward, Lydia Greunz
WP2 - RTDI&SMEs	Terry Ward, Enrico Wolleb
WP3 - Financial instruments	Terry Ward, Peter Tyler
WP4 - Large enterprises	Terry Ward, Enrico Wolleb
WP5 – Transport	Terry Ward, Enrico Wolleb
WP6 – Environment	Terry Ward, Lydia Greunz
WP8 - Energy efficiency	Terry Ward, Lydia Greunz
WP9 - Culture & Tourism	Terry Ward, Andrea Naldini
WP10 - Urban development & social infrastructure	Terry Ward, Andrea Naldini
WP11 – European Territorial Cooperation	Terry Ward, Lydia Greunz, Enrico Wolleb, Andrea Naldini
WP12 – Delivery system	Terry Ward, Lydia Greunz, Enrico Wolleb, Andrea Naldini
WP13 – Geography of expenditure	Terry Ward, Andrea Naldini

Task 6 – Organisation of meetings for other work packages (and WP1)

This section gives an overview of the general approach which will be adopted for the logistical organisation of seminars which covers both the two specific to WP1 under Task 1 (see above) and Task 7 (see below) and those (around 10) to be arranged for other WPs. Decisions on the venues for these meetings when they are held outside DG Regional Policy offices and on related issues will be made jointly by Applica and DG Regional Policy officials.

Approach to the organisation of seminars

The approach to the implementation of the different tasks – which will be common to all seminars – is as follows.

Before the event

The seminars will be planned well in advance to secure the first choice of date and venue (where required) and the participation of the people invited.

Activities during this phase include:

- immediately after a first exchange with DG Regional Policy officials decide on a suitable date;
- send out invitations with details of the event. If those invited are expected to act as speakers or moderators, the team will provide them with all the necessary information about the purpose and content of the event, the role they are expected to play and their input to the event, deadlines for submission of their presentation and/or papers;
- manage the registration process using a web-based registration system. The team will monitor registrations as they are received, ensure that the registration process runs smoothly and send out to participants confirmations as well as a ‘dossier’ containing the agenda of the meeting, summary details of the issues to be covered and practical information on the venue and how to get there;
- provide assistance and on-demand guidance as necessary and respond to queries from participants;
- if the event is not held in Commission premises, identify in agreement with DG Regional and Policy officials a suitable venue based on the number of participants and the type of set-up of the meeting;
- book accommodation and contact suppliers, such as of technical equipment, tea and coffee and meals and plan their services, so that the event runs as smoothly as possible;
- establish and maintain a dossier containing all planning documents such as the proposal, event plan, budget, contact details and quotes, so that the team can follow the event closely and intervene should any unforeseen circumstances arise;
- circulate a note prepared by those responsible for the WP or report to be discussed on its main findings and setting out the issues to be discussed at the meeting. This will be done sufficiently in advance to give participants time to think about the issues beforehand. This is not only to focus the discussion but also to reduce the time spent on presenting the report and its conclusions at the meeting itself so as to allow more time for participants to give their

comments on the report and express their views on the issues raised which is, after all, the main purpose of the meeting.

During the event

At least two members of the team will be present at each seminar:

- a member of the core team to follow and contribute to the debate and, for the three specific WP1 events, to give presentations and lead discussions;
- a member of the event team to welcome participants, provide assistance and supervise the smooth running of the event (including ensuring that there is adequate signposting, checking the audio-visual equipment to see that it works correctly and the catering to verify that it is supplied on time in the designated areas).

After the event

Members of the core team participating at the seminars will draft a short resumé on the points which are most relevant for the Synthesis report.

This will be sent together with a “thank you” message to all participants asking them to send details of their travel costs for reimbursement.

Any feedback on the event will be considered and shared with the Commission and all those involved, including the suppliers if relevant, in order to maintain and improve the quality of service.

Task 6 – Indicative Timetable



Note: The Timetable does not cover WP5 (Transport), WP6 (Environment), WP11 (European Territorial Cooperation) and WP13 (Geography of expenditure) which have yet to be launched. It consequently remains unclear when the seminars relating to these should be organised.

The organisation of the events will be of the responsibility of Loredana Sementini.

Task 7 – Synthesis

The concern of Task 7 is to produce a synthesis of the *ex post* evaluation as a whole, bringing out the main findings and policy recommendations from each of the WPs, including WP1. It will also include a summary of the findings of the *ex post* evaluation of the European Social Fund prepared by DG Employment and will integrate the results of a planned EIB study of the unit costs of major projects if it becomes available.

The report will have two parts. The first will convey the main findings of the evaluation in a clear and readable way so as to reach a wide audience and to have the maximum impact on the debate surrounding Cohesion Policy. It will concentrate primarily on the outcome of EU co-financed programmes over the period and their contribution to the pursuit of the development objectives set across the EU by Member States and regions, as well as to the achievement of common EU policy aims. It will also set out the implications of the evaluation for the design and conduct of Cohesion Policy in the future.

The second will be a more technical part containing details of the analysis carried out by the various WPs and the conclusions which can be drawn. As such it will provide the scientific underpinnings to the policy messages presented in the first part. It will, nevertheless, be relatively short (a maximum of 150 pages) and concisely written, bringing out the key lessons to be drawn from the analysis as well as outlining the methods used and how the results were generated. It will set out so far as possible *‘the extent to which resources were used, the effectiveness and efficiency of Fund programming and the socio-economic impact’* (Article 47 of the Regulations⁵). It will also assess the nature and scale of EU added-value which the funding provided has given rise to over the period and the coherence of the programmes with both national and regional development strategy and other EU policies. Although this part will be technical in the sense of explaining the methods used in the evaluation, it will, nevertheless, be drafted so far as possible in a non-technical way so that it can be understood by non-specialists and general readers of the first part can if they wish learn how particular findings were generated.

The task, therefore, involves identifying the main messages to come out of the evaluation in a way which enables people to appreciate what has been achieved through Structural Fund support over the programming period. The issues to be covered are much the same as those outlined in respect of the country summaries, though they will be considered from a pan-EU rather than a national perspective:

- the policy context over the period in terms of the underlying economic situation across the EU and the effects of this on regional developments as well as on the implementation of programmes and the response of national and regional authorities in the different countries;
- the changes in regional disparities of various kinds over the period, distinguishing regions in receipt of the largest amounts of Cohesion Policy support – i.e. the Convergence regions – from others, as well as the transition regions (phasing-in and phasing-out) which received less funding but more than Competitiveness and Employment regions;

⁵ Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 of 11 July 2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999.

- the scale of financial support from the ERDF and Cohesion Fund over the period going to regions under the different Objectives in different Member States and its allocation between broad policy areas and categories of expenditure as well as the changes in allocation which occurred over the period (i.e. bringing out the points which can be drawn as regards the financial implementation of the policy from the data examined under Task 2);
- the outcome of the programmes co-financed in the different Member States and regions in terms of the output from the projects and measures carried out in the different policy areas and their results insofar as they can be identified as well as the contribution to the pursuit of EU-wide objectives, presenting an overview of the achievements of Cohesion Policy across the EU as a whole in addition to those in individual parts of it, including a summary of the outcome of ESF co-financed programmes, linking so far as possible the findings of the *ex post* evaluation of this source of funding to those of the present exercise;
- the effect of co-financed programmes on the ultimate objectives of Cohesion Policy in terms of strengthening the development potential of lagging regions and narrowing disparities across the EU as indicated by macroeconomic model simulations (carried out in WP14) as well as perhaps by models estimating the impact of projects to improve transport links (i.e. summarising the results of WP7);
- the way that the financial support from the ERDF and Cohesion Fund, as well as from the ESF, was managed over the period in the different countries, as indicated by the results of the analysis carried out in WP12 (which is joint exercise involving DG Employment as well as DG Regional Policy);
- Overall assessment of the performance of Cohesion Policy in different locations (in different Member States and different types of region) and in the different broad policy areas and consideration of the factors underlying the variation in performance;
- the main conclusions which can be drawn from the evaluation in terms of the effects of Cohesion Policy programmes over the 2007-2013 period and their effectiveness in achieving policy aims, both immediate and longer-term, bringing out the lessons which can be learned for the future design and implementation of policy and the way that it is managed, which need to be considered in the light of the changes which have already been made to the policy in the present period.

The main messages which the report should convey and the way in which it should do this will be discussed in detail with those responsible for the evaluation in DG Regional Policy before the drafting process begins.

Once the Synthesis Report has been drafted, the main findings will be discussed at a hearing with representatives of the Member States and high level experts. Consortium members will prepare the agenda and identify the participants and speakers in consultation with DG Regional Policy officials. A number of the experts suggested for the roundtable as part of Task 1 would also be suitable participants in the hearing. Others who would also be suitable are listed below, the intention being to indicate the kind of expert that it might be useful to invite as much as to determine who precisely should be invited which is for DG Regional Policy ultimately to decide. The Consortium will take care of the logistics for the meeting and will organise the invitations, travel arrangements and accommodation as well as the fees for the experts.

The hearing will provide an opportunity not only for discussing the overall findings of the *ex post* evaluation but also for an exchange of views between Member State representatives, experts and the Commission on what the findings imply for policy in the future and what recommendations can be made as regards improvements, in the light of course of the reforms already introduced for the 2014-2030 period. During the hearing, detailed notes will be taken by Consortium members, which will form the basis for a short report on the hearing. The main points to come out of the hearing will also be taken into account in the final version of the Synthesis report.

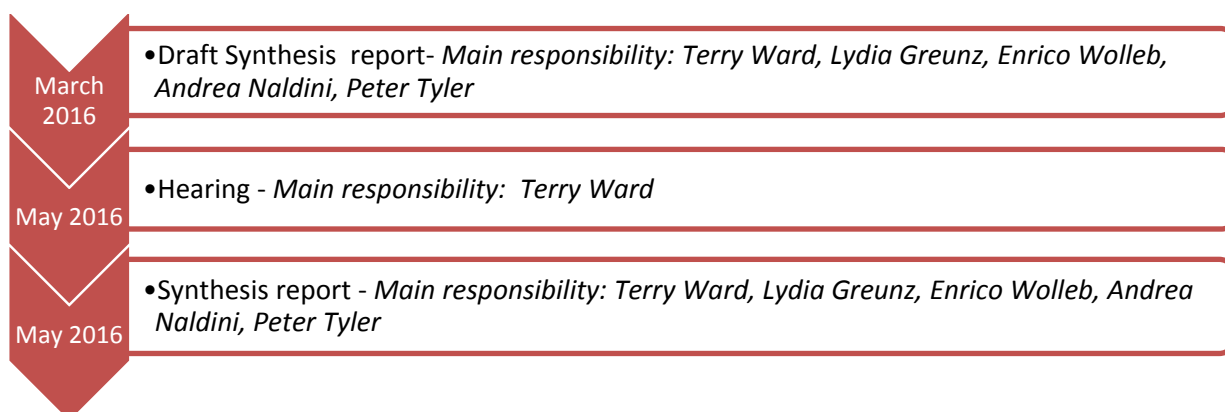
All the members of the core team will contribute to the preparation of the report with Terry Ward as main editor.

List of potential participants to hearing

- **Fabrizio Barca** is an economist and politician, who served as a state minister for territorial cohesion in the Monti cabinet from 2011 to 2013. Over the years he covered several public posts, including division chief at the research department of the Bank of Italy, head of the department for development and Cohesion policies at the Italian Treasury and president of OECD's territorial policies committee. He also worked as a special advisor to the European Union commissioner responsible for regional policy and in 2009, he authored an independent report for the European Commission, entitled "An agenda for a reformed Cohesion Policy", known as the "Barca report".
- **Jiří Blažek**, Associate Professor in regional development, regional policy and regional economics at the Department of Social Geography and Regional Geography, Faculty of Sciences, Charles University in Prague and member of the Policy Advisory Unit and later of the Task Force at the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic. He has participated in numerous evaluation studies and is author of many scientific papers on regional development and policy.
- **Jan Fagerberg** is professor at the University of Oslo, where he is affiliated with the Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture (TIK). He has also affiliations with the Department of Business and Management at Aalborg University (the IKE research group) and the Centre for Innovation, Research and Competence in the Learning Economy (CIRCLE) at Lund University. His research focusses on the relationship between technology (innovation and diffusion) and competitiveness, economic growth and development. He has also worked on innovation theory, innovation systems and innovation policy. He has been a consultant to the European Commission, OECD and UN. Recently he served as chairman of a Norwegian governmental committee assessing the efficiency of public support to R&D.
- **Marjorie Jouen** is adviser on Employment policy, Rural development and Structural and Cohesion Policies, Rural Development Policy at Notre Europe (Jacques Delors Institute). She is the Former Deputy Chief of Staff of the President's Committee of the Regions and a former member of the Forward Studies Unit of the European Commission in charge of the territorial and social issues. She was advisor of the Head of the European affairs unit at the Department for regional and planning development (DATAR) in Paris.
- **Sandor Kerekes**, Professor at Corvinus University of Budapest. His main fields of research are environmental economics, environmental management, environmental policy, corporate social responsibility, sustainable consumption and renewable energy.

- **Diego Puga** is professor of economics at Center for Monetary and Financial Studies (CEMFI) in Madrid. Since 2007, he is co-director of the International Trade and Regional Economics Programme of the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) and previously held positions at the London School of Economics, the University of Toronto, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, and IMDEA Social Sciences. His research interests include urban economics, economic geography and international trade.
- **Greg Richards** is professor of Leisure Studies at the University of Tilburg and Professor of Events at NHTV Breda University of Applied Sciences in The Netherlands. He has worked on projects for numerous national governments, national tourism organisations and municipalities, and he has extensive experience in tourism research and education, with previous posts at London Metropolitan University (UK), Universitat Roviria I Virgili, Tarragona (Spain) and the University of the West of England (Bristol, UK).
- **Luc Soete** is rector magnificus of Maastricht University. During the 1980s he established the Maastricht Economic Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (MERIT), which has become a leading research institute for the economic analysis of technological development and innovation and is part of the United Nations University. He has been a member of various High Level Expert Groups of the European Commission.
- **Pawel Swianiewicz**, Professor of Economics and Head of the Department of Local Development and Policy at the Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies at the University of Warsaw adviser to the Polish President on local government issues and member of the Executive Board of European Urban Research Association (EURA). His research interests are local politics, local government finances, local and regional development, and the implementation of EU regional policies in Poland and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

Task 7 – Timetable



3. Timetable of deliverables and meetings

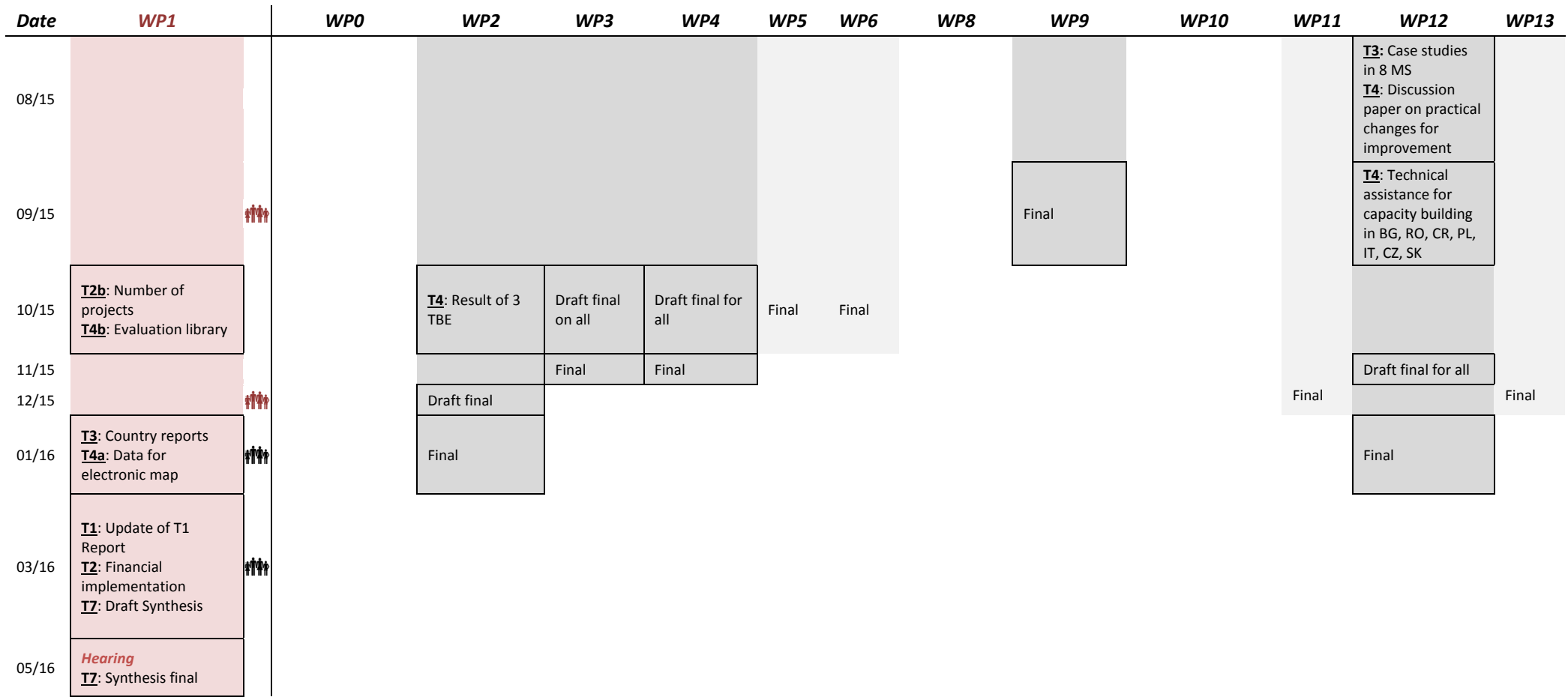
The timetable for the present WP (in first column) set out below is based on the schedule for delivery of reports and for meetings already agreed (at the kick-off meeting). It is nevertheless subject to change, with the prior agreement of the Commission, as the work proceeds if it seems desirable to alter the schedule in order to achieve the end objectives more effectively. It does not include the monthly progress reports that will be delivered at the beginning of each month.

As the timing of the work to be carried out depends in many respects on the timing of the other WPs (in particular the production of the country reports under Task 3, the support to Commission services under Task 5 and the organisation of meetings and seminars under Task 6 as well as the preparation of the Synthesis report itself under Task 7), the table also shows the time schedule for the WPs that have been launched up to now. It is based on the timetable of deliverables specified in the ToRs in each case and assumes that all the WPs start on the planned signature dates. In the case of the WPs which have not yet been launched (WP5, WP6, WP11, WP13), the table indicates only the starting and the end dates as planned by DG Regional Policy.


Timetable of WP1 and indicative planning of the other WPs of the ex-post evaluation


Date	WP1	WP0	WP2	WP3	WP4	WP5	WP6	WP8	WP9	WP10	WP11	WP12	WP13
01/14		Inception											
05/14		T1: NUTS3 breakdown of ERDF & CF T2a: Core Ind. AIRs2012											
07/14	Inception												
08/14	Inception		Inception						Inception				
09/14				Inception	Inception								
10/14							Sign.	Sign.		Inception			
11/14								Inception	T1: Lit. review and typology of support T2: Data analysis and sampling + 9 proposals for prog.. case studies		Sign.	Inception	Sign.
12/14	T1a: macroeconomic background T1b: regional development trends		T3: Proposal for 7 case studies on regions/prog. T4: Proposal for 7 instruments (TBE)	T1: Support for FEIs and proposal of 9 case study prog. T2: Lit. review	T1: Support to large enterprises and proposal of 8 case study prog. T2: Lit. review								
01/15	T1c: Meeting with academic experts	T2a: Core Ind. AIRs2013 T2b: Common Ind. T2c: Other outputs/results T3: Major Projects in 2013 AIRs T4: Greenhouse Gas reductions	T1: Main instruments T2: Lit. Review T3: 1 pilot case study on region/prog.						T3: 1 pilot case study of progr. + 2 case studies of projects			T1: Analysis of delivery system 2007-2013	

Date	WP1	WP0	WP2	WP3	WP4	WP5	WP6	WP8	WP9	WP10	WP11	WP12	WP13
02/15	T3: pilot country report Italy	Final								T1: Distribution of investments and reported outputs T2: Analysis of OPs and AIRs and Survey of MAs			
03/15				T1: 2 pilot case study progs.	T1: 2 pilot case study programmes			T1: Support for energy efficiency+ Lit. review T2: Review of ERDF/CF measures T3: pilot case study					
04/15													
05/15	T1c: Seminar with MS		Seminar T3: 8 case study regions/ programmes T4: Selection of 3 TBE					T3: 6 case studies				T2: Report on Interviews, structured discussions and survey	
06/15	T1c: Report effects of crisis T3: First draft country reports			T3: 9 case study progs.	T3: 8 case study progs.			Seminar Draft final on all		Seminar Draft final on all including T3: Survey of project implementation bodies T4: Cross-task analysis			
07/15				Seminar	Seminar			Final	Seminar Draft final on all	Final			



WP0 – Data collection
 WP4 - Large enterprises
 WP9 - Culture and tourism
 WP13 – Geography of expenditure

WP1 – Synthesis
 WP5 – Transport
 WP10 - Urban devel, social infrastrcuture
 SG meetings

WP2 –SMEs, innovation and ICT
 WP6 - Environment
 WP11 – European Territorial Cooperation
 Progress meetings

WP3 – Venture capital, loan funds
 WP8 - Energy efficiency
 WP12 – Delivery system