



CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE INVESTMENT INITIATIVE: COHESION POLICY ACTION AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

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The coronavirus pandemic is a major challenge for the entire European Union, affecting healthcare systems and triggering an economic crisis. In response, through the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative, Member States can use cohesion policy funds to finance crisis-related actions, in areas most in need



Health sector



Support to SMEs



Support to workers

To make this money available, the Commission proposed to mobilise quickly cash reserves from the EU funds. All coronavirus crisis related expenditure has been made eligible under cohesion policy rules and the rules for cohesion spending will be applied with maximum flexibility. In addition, the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative has introduced the possibility to apply 100% EU co-financing rate to the relevant operational programmes and additional flexibility to transfer resources between the cohesion policy funds, and between categories of region.

State of play*



27 countries have made or are planning to make use of the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative: [BE, BG, HR, CY, CZ, DK, EE, FI, FR, DE, EL, HU, IE, IT, LV, LT, LU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SI, ES, SE + UK](#).



18 countries have adjusted their cohesion policy programmes (88 programme amendments in total): [BE, BG, CZ, DE, DK, EL, ES, FR, HU, IT, LT, LV, PL, RO, SE, SI, SK + UK](#).

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Regional and
urban policy

Examples on the ground

→ Bulgaria



€20 million of cohesion policy funding to strengthen the healthcare sector's response to the coronavirus outbreak:

- new top class medical equipment
- life-saving medication and personal protective equipment for health care facilities:
 - + 377 ventilators
 - + 2 million face masks
 - +177,000 test kits

→ France



Cohesion policy funding provides support to overcome the challenges brought by the coronavirus outbreak through:

- Purchase of urgent health equipment
- Support to the working capital of SMEs (either with grants or through financial instruments)
- Reconversion of SMEs activity towards the local production of urgent health products (masks, gloves, disinfectants).

→ Greece



€1.14 billion of cohesion policy funding to address the effects of the coronavirus crisis in the Greek economy by supporting entrepreneurship actions and assisting directly Greek SMEs.

→ Italy



€30 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for Emilia Romagna and Tuscany to cope with the coronavirus crisis:

- Emilia Romagna will fund a call for short-term projects to develop and test innovative products and services
- Tuscany will provide regional SMEs easier access to liquidity to keep their business running in time of economic uncertainty

→ Latvia



Latvia has used cohesion funding to tackle the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic mainly in healthcare, business support and employment:

- **€30 million** to reinforce health services, such as hospital renovations and hiring of additional medical staff
- **€35 million** for SME support and €20 million in support of employment measures
- **€45 million** to expand broadband access to rural areas to allow remote learning, temporary work, tackling unemployment and continued education.

→ Poland



Cohesion policy funding allows the Warmińsko-Mazurskie region to invest in health services and compensate for the financial loss of companies related to the outbreak of the coronavirus:

- **€15 million** of cohesion policy funding for the purchase of medical equipment
- **€3.5 million** dedicated to the protection of social assistance homes, medical and nursing homes, care facilities and hospices against the virus
- **€120 million** for regional companies suffering losses