



9th CONFERENCE

on the Evaluation
of EU Cohesion Policy

Shaping Transitions with Evidence

16-17 September 2021
Porto, Portugal

Workshop 3A:

European Green Deal

Thursday 16 September 2021

11:45 – 13:00 GMT+1

#CohesionEval2021

Regional and
Urban Policy

Housekeeping

- **In the room:** microphones available
- **Online:** Post questions in the Zoom “chat”
Moderator will ask online questions to panellist.
- Video and presentations will be online here: [Conference Website](#)

Twitter: #CohesionEval2021 - #CohesionOpenData - @RegioEvaluation



The European Green Deal



The EU as a
global leader

A European
Climate Pact

CHAIR: Sabine Bourdy, Head of Mainstreaming & Environmental Assessments Unit, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission

PANELLISTS:

- **Mihai Panaite** (moderator), Evaluation Officer, Evaluation and European Semester Unit, Directorate- General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
 - **Myriam Bovéda**, Team Leader, Smart and Sustainable Growth Unit, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
 - **Normunds Strautmanis**, former Deputy Head of Evaluation Unit, Ministry of Finance, Latvia
 - **Rob Williams**, Senior Consultant, Trinomics
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Workshop 3A

European Green Deal

Structural Funds contribution to Green investments 2014-2020



Mihai Panaite, DG REGIO

Several ways to look at green investments under EU cohesion policy during 2014-2020

- By thematic objective : 3 of 11+1 (low carbon econ., adaptation to climate change, environment)
- By intervention field: 35 of 123 intervention fields
- By climate coefficient (for institutional reporting)



Nomenclature for the categories of intervention of the Funds (1) under the Investment for growth and jobs goal and of the Youth Employment Initiative

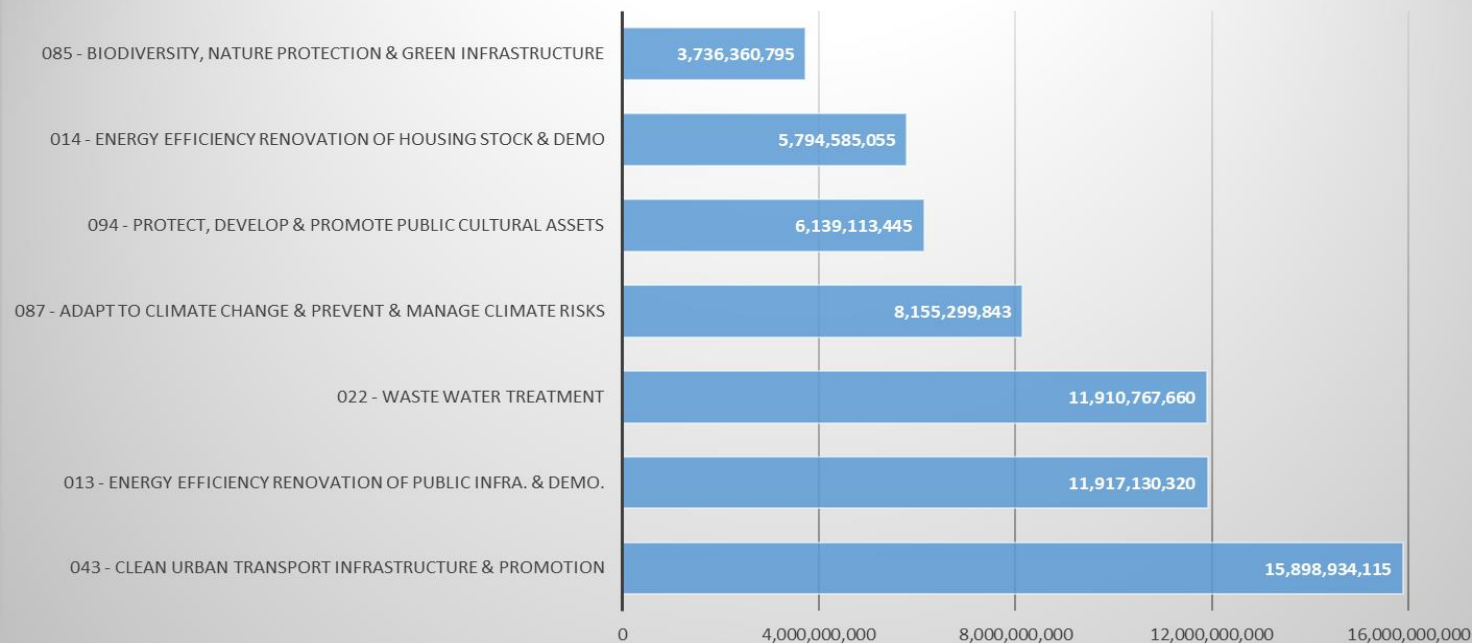
TABLE 1: CODES FOR THE INTERVENTION FIELD DIMENSION

1. INTERVENTION FIELD	Coefficient for the calculation of support to climate change objectives
I. Productive investment:	
001 Generic productive investment in small and medium – sized enterprises ('SMEs')	0 %
002 Research and innovation processes in large enterprises	0 %
003 Productive investment in large enterprises linked to the low-carbon economy	40 %
004 Productive investment linked to the cooperation between large enterprises and SMEs for developing information and communication technology ('ICT') products and services, e-commerce and enhancing demand for ICT	0 %
II. Infrastructure providing basic services and related investment:	
<i>Energy infrastructure</i>	
005 Electricity (storage and transmission)	0 %
006 Electricity (TEN-E storage and transmission)	0 %
007 Natural gas	0 %
008 Natural gas (TEN-E)	0 %
009 Renewable energy: wind	100 %
010 Renewable energy: solar	100 %
011 Renewable energy: biomass	100 %



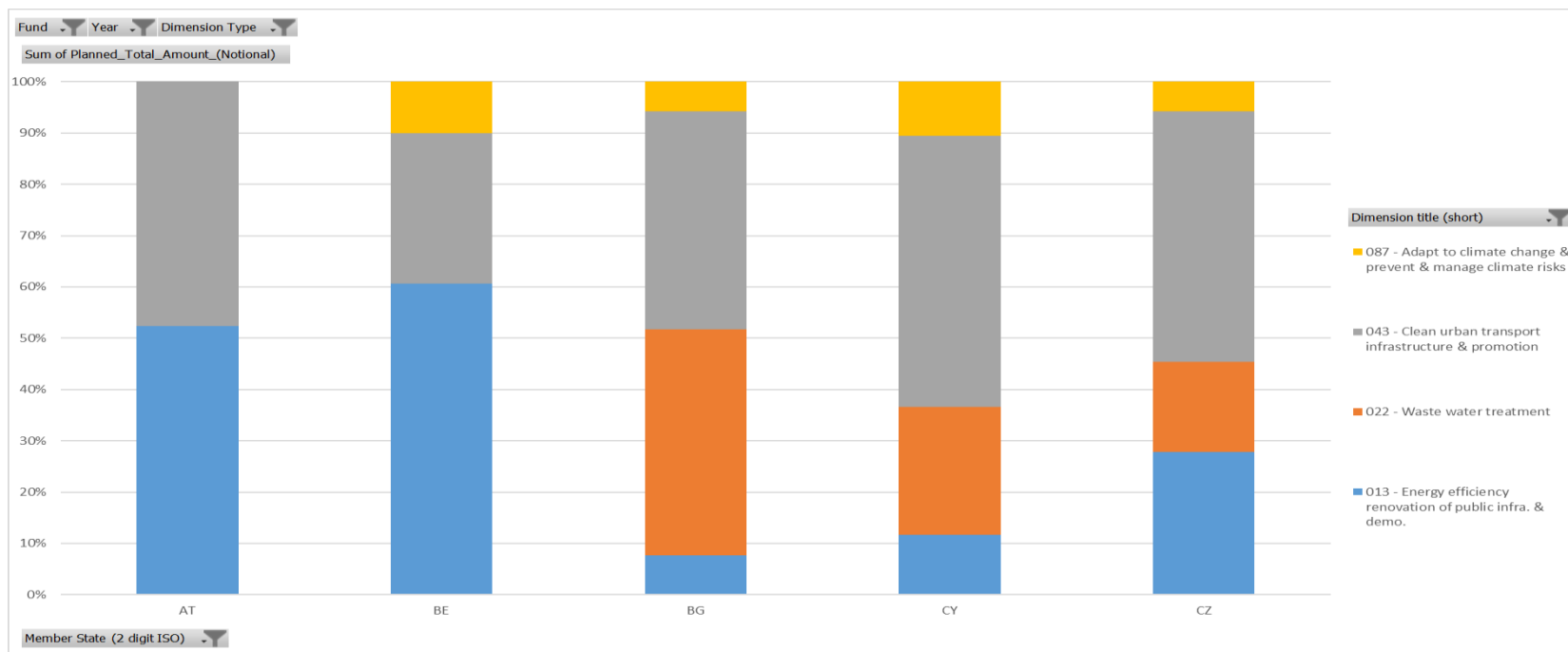
The main intervention fields for green investments

Categories of intervention - total planned amounts (euro)



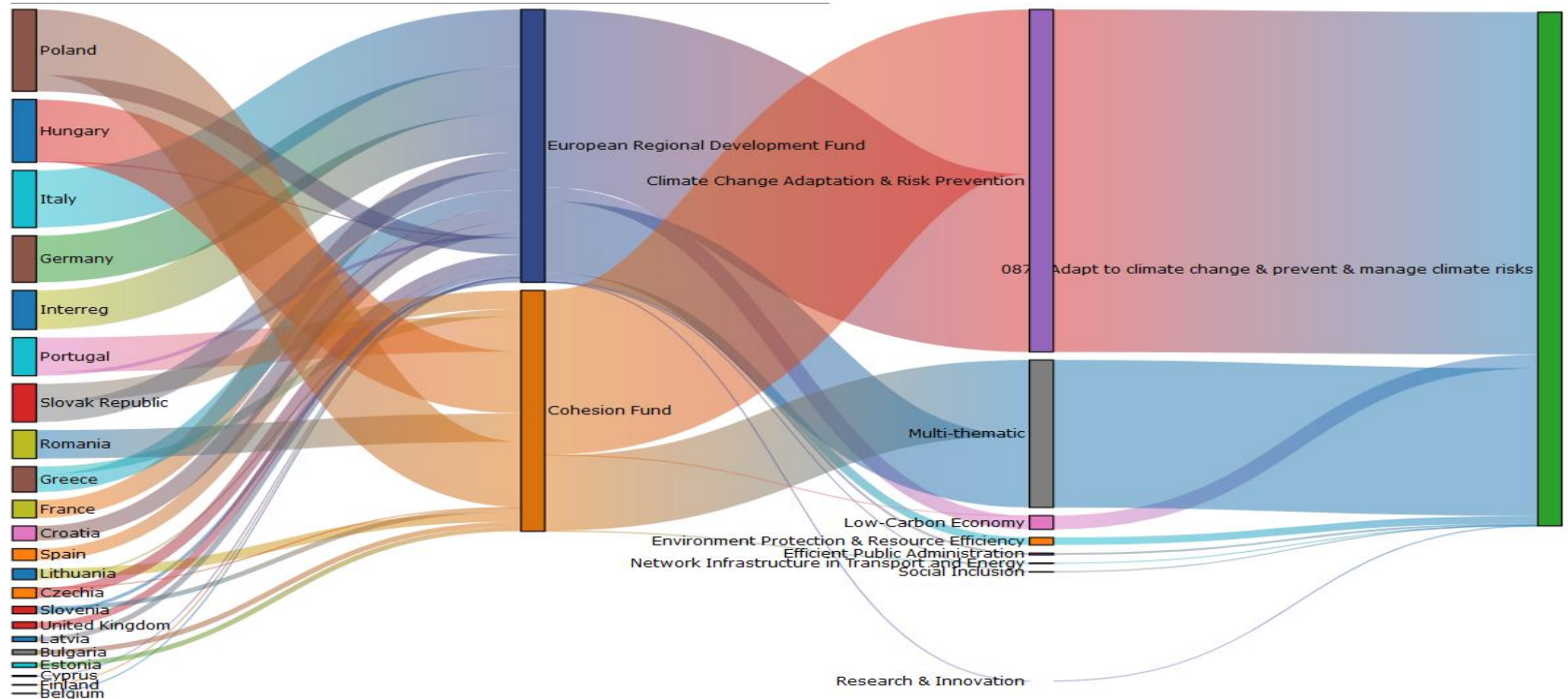
Source: Open data platform

Top 4 *green* intervention fields by Member State



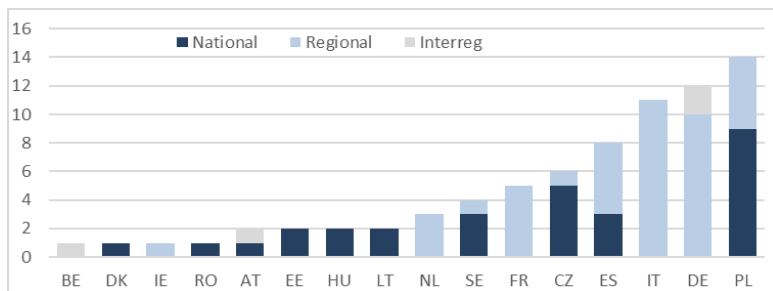
Source: Open data platform

Several dimensions in one picture

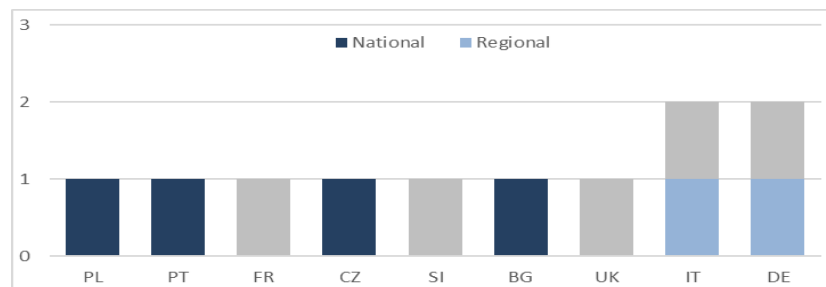


Evaluation effort in Member States

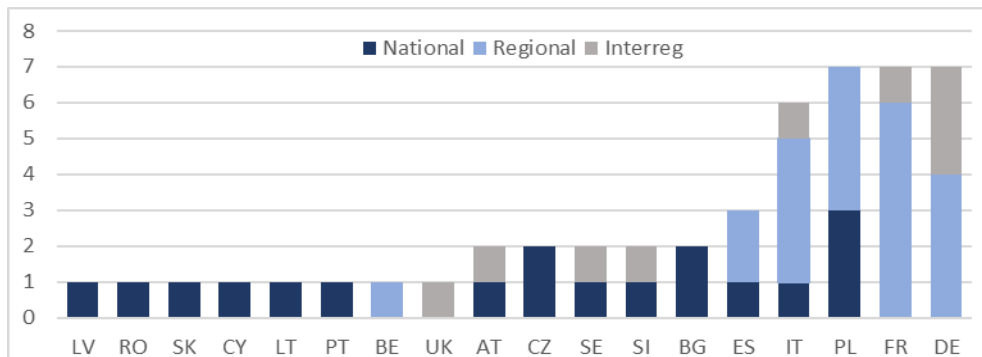
TO 4 - Low carbon economy (13 impact eval.)



TO 5 – Adaptation to climate change (1 impact eval.)



TO 6 – Environment (10 impact eval.)



Source: Evaluation
Helpdesk
Data at end of 2020

Further reading and data

<https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/>

HOME OVERVIEW THEMES COUNTRIES FUNDS PROGRAMMES PROJECTS STORIES

EU LEVEL

THEME

COUNTRY

FUND

EU budget allocations

2021-2027 Cohesion policy

Read the Story





Shaping Transitions with Evidence

9th CONFERENCE on the Evaluation of EU Cohesion Policy



Thank you!

mihai.panaite@ec.europa.eu

A light blue silhouette of a diverse group of people walking, including men, women, and children, positioned at the bottom right of the slide.



Cohesion policy 2021-2027 delivering the European Green Deal – the role of evaluation

Myriam Bovéda

Team Leader Sustainable Growth, DG Regional and Urban Policy





9th Conference on the Evaluation of EU Cohesion Policy, Porto 16-17 September 2021

Cohesion policy in the European Green Deal



“Cohesion Funds play a crucial role in supporting our regions and rural areas from East to West, from South to North to keep up with the transformations of our world.

*In this transition, **we must recognise and respect that we do not all start from the same point.** We all share the same ambition but some may need more tailored support than others to get there.”*

-  Investing in place-based innovation and smart economic transformation
-  Deploying technological and social innovation on a large scale
-  Facilitating phase-out of unsustainable practices
-  Ensuring a just transition for all regions

Policy Objective 2: A Greener Europe



- Eight specific objectives:
 - i. promoting **energy efficiency** and reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
 - ii. promoting **renewable energy** in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein;
 - iii. developing **smart energy systems, grids and storage** outside TEN-E;
 - iv. promoting **climate change adaptation**, and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches;
 - v. promoting access to water and **sustainable water management**;
 - vi. promoting the transition to a **circular and resource efficient economy**;
 - vii. enhancing protection and preservation of **nature, biodiversity** and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and **reducing all forms of pollution**;
 - viii. promoting **sustainable multimodal urban mobility**, as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy;

Just Transition Fund



Narrower geographical scope

- Territories facing serious socio-economic challenges deriving from the climate-neutrality transition

Stronger focus in scope of intervention

- Economic diversification and reconversion
- Re-skilling and job seeking assistance for workers
- + Targeted support to local deployment of sustainable energy, circular economy or sustainable mobility

Limited additional eligibility

- Productive investments in large enterprises: if needed to offset job losses
- Investments reducing GHG emissions from ETS activities: if needed to preserve jobs

Member States shall prepare territorial just transition plans



Delivering the European Green Deal

- 30% (ERFD) and 37% (CF) climate mainstreaming at fund level
- Earmarking 30% ERDF at MS level for Policy Objective 2
- Enabling conditions focused on effectiveness of spending (e.g link with NECPs)
- Excluding undesirable investment (e.g. fossil fuels, landfilling, treatment of residual waste)
- Climate proofing of infrastructure projects
- Just Transition Mechanism and Just Transition Fund
- New interregional innovation instrument, stronger focus on sustainability in S3

A transformative agenda adapted to different starting points

This is what we need our programmes to do better:

- Develop a **vision** of a sustainable future, and formulate **pathways**
- Put in place a system of proactive **governance** to manage the transition
- Support **innovation** to develop sustainable solutions
- Support **deployment** of innovation, and **phase-out** of unsustainable practices
- Ensure a **just transition** so that the transformation benefits everyone
- Apply specific **territorial approaches** to the delivery of the Green Deal (e.g. cities, rural areas, coal regions)
- **Mainstream sustainability** into programmes and projects

Evaluations help steering Cohesion policy towards achieving the objectives of the EGD

- The EGD has set ambitious targets : climate neutrality, fit for 55 package
- Need for efficiency and effectiveness to reach not only the objectives set out in the programmes that contribute to the EGD objectives : climate neutrality, zero pollution, just transition...(GHG reduction, renewables production, zero pollution)
- Process and thematic evaluations carried out at MS level can support programming to reach the objectives set out

Contact



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Evaluating Green Deal (like) investment

A Member State perspective: Experience and examples from Latvia



Normunds Strautmanis

former Deputy Head of Evaluation Unit, Managing Authority of EU funds

9th Cohesion Policy Evaluation Conference, Porto, 16 September 2021

EVALUATIONS

Ex-post evaluation of 2007 – 2013 investment into environment protection and efficient use of resources

- waste management, water management, adaptation to climate change, conservation of biodiversity, reduction of environmental pollution risks
- evaluation report in December 2018

Ex-post evaluation of 2014 – 2020 investment priority “Transition to a low-carbon economy”

- energy efficiency measures, use of renewable energy, urban mobility as part of energy efficiency measures
- just started, evaluation report until the end of 2022

Socio-economic assessment of measures aimed at restoring favorable status of habitats and species protection

- to assess and compare the benefits and losses of investments in additional activities for habitat renewal and water management development
- evaluation report in November 2019

EVALUATION QUESTIONS

Ex-post 2007 – 2013 period

(more general approach)

- is there the complementarity with other investment (national)
- was the implementation successful
- was there a resource efficiency achieved

Ex-post 2014 – 2020 period

(more detailed approach)

- how and to what extent has the support contributed to the achievement of the priorities of the OP and to those of national policy
- what are the overall benefits
- what are the actual groups of final beneficiaries and how and how have program interventions affected these groups
- to what extent are the interventions consistent and complement each other and other policy interventions in the field
- what is the effectiveness of the implementation in different sectors and in different types of interventions and projects, including ensuring sufficient involvement of partners and overcoming obstacles to implementation
- what are the advantages and disadvantages of the type, principles and approach used in project selection and within calls, as well as the administrative burden

DATA

Data from Management Information System (MIS)

- Project level data – who is doing what and where
- Output and result indicators – 2014 – 2020 approach / 2021 – 2027 approach (by the regulation)

Context data

- Statistics
- Sectoral data

Intervention related data

- Data supporting project level data – specific performance data on project beneficiaries



What kind of data are there (timing, cost, regularity, time coverage)



How do you access the data (timing, cost)



What (and at what form and stage) can you provide data to evaluator

EVALUATION METHODS

Ex-post 2007 – 2013 period

(more general approach)

- evaluators free to provide

Ex-post 2014 – 2020 period

(more detailed approach)

- evaluators free to propose
- methods to include specified in ToR

General principles applied in both examples

- Different evaluation questions may need different kind of methods / techniques
- Methods / techniques depend on data availability
- Methods / techniques complement each other

OTHER ASPECTS (TO CONSIDER)



Scope and coverage



Timing of the evaluation



Involvement of stakeholders



Usage of results

EVALUATION RESULTS

Socio-economic assessment of measures aimed at restoring favorable status of habitats and species protection

- to assess and compare the benefits and losses of investments in additional activities for habitat renewal and water management
- 2 interventions from 2014 – 2020 OP were compared
 - SO 5.4.3. “Renewal of favourable status regarding habitat and species protection”
 - SO 5.3.1. “Development and improvement of water supply quality and waste water system”

Assessment criteria	Habitat and species protection (5.4.3.)	Water supply quality and wastewater (5.3.1.)
Economic benefit	17.96million EUR/ year	3.86 million EUR/ year
Full-time working spaces created	2,616 employees	7,784 employees
Net current value (short term)	5 times higher	
Net current value (long term)	12 times higher	
Implemented when limited financing	Y	N

The background features a soft, light-colored sky with several stylized, semi-transparent clouds in shades of white and light grey. A bright sun is positioned in the upper right quadrant, creating a subtle lens flare effect. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

More information on evaluation results from
Latvia

<https://www.esfondi.lv/izvertejumi-1>



Evaluation of Green interventions: a practitioner's view

Rob Williams
Trinomics

September 16th 2021.



What are green interventions?

- ‘Green’ covers a wide range of issues with a wide range of outputs, results and impacts
- Some cross over into other areas- e.g. defining ‘green’ skills and ‘green’ innovations, BUT, for today stick to the Cohesion fund specifically:
- *“POLICY OBJECTIVE 2 - GREENER EUROPE: A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility”*
 - Energy - efficiency, renewable energy sources, generation and supply infrastructure
 - Climate - GHG savings, adaptation /resilience
 - Circular economy - waste collection and treatment, recycling
 - Environment - air quality, nature and habitat protection
 - Water - supply and treatment
 - Transport - personal and public
- Indicators are more specific and detailed than in past Cohesion fund - some have been used in other EC programmes (e.g. LIFE, Intelligent Energy Europe) and/or are in areas with legislative / policy targets and well established statistics.



Baselines

- Baselines are key - projects should define / know these and how they are expected to change as a result of the intervention - this is the ‘route to impact’ that is implicit in an intervention logic and what we are always looking for in any evaluation.
- Easier when you are changing an existing situation - e.g. improving the energy efficiency of an existing building - because historic data will / should exist.
- Short surveys can generate baseline data - e.g. traffic levels, people not connected to water supply or waste water collection systems (quantified evidence of ‘need’).
- For new schemes - various potential sources for a ‘counter factual’ - i.e. what would be the case if the project didn’t happen?
 - Could be ‘nothing’ - so a zero, i.e. totally additional
 - Or the existing ‘sub optimal’ situation carrying on, data can be sourced / evidenced from comparable existing scenarios in your MS or somewhere else, maybe historical situations (without Cohesion fund assistance).
 - Extrapolate suitable data - e.g. from other MSs, cities, regions - Needs to be justified, look at the available statistics and carry out ‘sense checks’ (e.g. what percentage of your population will be cycling or using public transport)

Table 2: Common result indicators 2021-2027 that will normally require baseline values

Policy objective	Indicator code	Indicator name	Measurement unit
All policy objectives, whenever relevant	RCR11	Users of new and upgraded public digital services, products and processes	annual users
All policy objectives, whenever relevant	RCR12	Users of new and upgraded digital services, products and processes developed by enterprises	annual users
PO2 Greener Europe	RCR26	Annual primary energy consumption (of which: dwellings, public buildings, enterprises, other)	MWh/year
PO2 Greener Europe	RCR29	Estimated greenhouse emissions	tonnes of CO ₂ e/year
PO2 Greener Europe	RCR105	Estimated greenhouse emissions by boilers and heating systems converted from solid fossil fuels to gas	tonnes of CO ₂ e/year
PO2 Greener Europe	RCR31	Total renewable energy produced (of which: electricity, thermal)	MWh/year
PO2 Greener Europe	RCR33	Users connected to smart energy systems	end users/ year
PO2 Greener Europe	RCR43	Water losses in distribution systems for public water supply	cubic metres per year
PO2 Greener Europe	RCR62	Annual users of new or modernised public transport	users
PO2 Greener Europe	RCR63	Annual users of new or modernised tram and metro lines	users
PO2 Greener Europe	RCR64	Annual users of dedicated cycling infrastructure	users

Source: Annex 3, table 2, on p. 195 of ‘Performance, monitoring and evaluation of the ERDF the Cohesion Fund and the Just Transition Fund in 2021-2027’, SWD (2021) 198 final



- A wide range in how quickly results and impacts manifest - a more energy efficient building will be apparent with one year's energy bills, the impact of improved habitats / improved ecosystem will take several years to become apparent.
- The indicators are typically output based (directly measurable) so of less concern to national programme monitoring
- Sense checks - estimate an order of magnitude as a first step, use what ever data you have, explain the source and assumptions (try to avoid making up new output indicators)
- Use the guidance
 - the indicators are explained and referenced
 - key terms are defined, e.g. 'recycling' as per the Waste Framework Directive
- Impacts (as a result of the outputs) - direct and indirect - National programmes can generate their own data (and ideas) on this, very useful and relevant to the evaluation of the Cohesion fund as a whole. For example:
 - Knock on employment benefits
 - Positive influence towards the green transition road map

