The resilience of the cohesion policy

Lessons learned from the Cohesion funds programming in crisis circumstances

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more than 20 years of experience in Monitoring of the Cohesion Funds

- 8 CEE countries - Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Czechia, Latvia and Estonia

Focus on:
- Partnership principle
- Climate
- Just Transition
- Biodiversity
2021-2027 Cohesion funds programing

2019 – start of programing process
2020-2022 – planning and negotiations in the context of several major crisis
2019 – European Green Deal – new climate commitments
2020 – Resilience and Cohesion Funds
February 2022 – invasion in Ukraine
May 2022 - REPowerEU Strategy
Partnership implementation

Right circumstances - insufficient result

- Code of Conduct on Partnership – legally binding
- Time was not the issues - Early start of the process
- Interest was high - organised civil society with experience from previous periods
- Political support from the DG Regio - Community of Practice on Partnership
Climate ambition

Consistencies with the policy framework

Facing out fossil fuel financing

- Just Transition Fund
- Gas lock in Cohesion funds
- Weak DNSH implementation

Accelerating energy transition

- Energy Communities – RED II Regulation from 2019
- Lack of transposition of the RED II Directive
- Low OR no allocation even in comparison with Recovery funds

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Recommendations for the future Cohesion Policy

- Consistent policy framework
- Do significant benefit principle
- EU funds should go more local
- Citizens should be in the hearth of the planning and implementation
Thank you!

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