



European
Commission

STRENGTHENING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY FOR COHESION POLICY

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COMMISSION INITIATIVES HELPING MEMBER STATES MAKE THE BEST USE OF EU FUNDS

The Good Governance pilot action is part of the Commission's broader effort to provide tailored assistance to Member States and regions to help them improve the way they manage and invest cohesion policy funds and foster more ownership, coordination and prioritisation in regional investment and development strategies.

Since the beginning of the 2014-2020 budgetary period, **the Commission took a number of initiatives** to help Member States make the best use of the available funding, establish locally-led growth strategies and build pipelines of quality, mature projects.

Designing or improving regional growth strategies with the help of EU funds

In 2015 the Commission launched the **Catching Up initiative** to examine the factors that hold back growth and investment in EU regions lagging behind in terms of growth or wealth, and to identify clear paths to support regional growth strategies, with the help of EU funds. Pilot actions have been implemented in two Polish regions, two Romanian regions, and in one Slovak region with Commission and World Bank experts working hand in hand with national and regional authorities, and providing recommendations and assistance on how to unlock their growth potential.

In 2017, the Commission launched a **pilot action** providing support from Commission and OECD experts as well as technical assistance financed by the ERDF to 12 countries and regions facing industrial transition. By 2019, the experts and the regional authorities will come up with strategies for economic transformation, in order to harness fully the benefits of globalisation and technological change.

Speeding up implementation of EU-funded projects on the ground

In 2014, the Commission created a **Task Force for Better Implementation**, to help some Member States speed up the implementation of EU-funded projects and strengthen their administrative capacity in the last stages of the 2007-2013 funding period. Commission experts and national authorities worked on dedicated action plans, which had very positive results on the ground and avoided significant loss of funding. The Task Force's work method having proved its value, its approach was continued in the 2014-2020 period, in the cooperation between the Commission and Member States to address implementation issues.

Improving administrative capacity and the day-to-day management of EU funds

In 2014, the Commission's **Action Plan on Public Procurement** aimed to help Member States improve the way administrations handled public procurement in EU investments in the 2014-2020 period. Several Member States implemented national action plans to address structural weaknesses, with the support of the Commission and other international organisations, such as the OECD, the World Bank, or the EIB.

Similarly, since 2015, the Commission has been supporting national and regional authorities managing EU funds **in the correct application of EU State aid rules**. This is essential for the functioning of the Single Market, to avoid irregularities and, ultimately, for quality investments. More than 600 officials have attended the training programme.

In 2014, the Commission launched **TAIEX REGIO PEER 2 PEER**, a match-making tool for administrations in need of expert support in dealing with EU funds. Authorities log their specific request on the online database and receive assistance from experts from all across Europe, or get to participate in workshops. Since its launch it has been used by more than 2,000 participants in 27 Member States.

In 2017, the Commission launched the **EU Competency Framework**, an instrument for administrations dealing with EU funds to assess and develop the skills of their employees, with online tools to follow personal progress.

Helping Member States ensure sound and transparent public procurement processes

The Commission is working with the NGO Transparency International to improve transparency in public procurement for EU-funded projects. The "**Integrity Pacts**" are legally-binding agreements under which independent third parties oversee the public procurement process to ensure it is carried out in a fair and transparent manner. Already 17 Integrity Pacts are being implemented in 11 Member States, with good results in improving transparency and accountability.

MORE INFORMATION:

ON THE INFOREGIO WEBSITE: **[Improving how funds are invested and managed](#)**

ON THE ESF WEBSITE: **[Better public services](#)**