

Lexicon

Cohesion policy: Covers all the programmes supported by the following funds: the European Social Fund (ESF+), the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF). It is also known as regional policy.

Structural Funds: The European Social Fund (ESF+) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Note on data used in the report: All figures, tables, charts and maps featuring in the report are based on data that were available at the end of 2023, with the exception of the figures of Map 1.1 (GDP/head by region, 2022), which were released in February 2024.

Abbreviations

AI	Artificial intelligence
AMECO	Annual macro-economic database of DG ECFIN
ANC	Area facing natural or other specific constraints
ARDECO	Annual regional database of DG REGIO
AROP	At risk of poverty
AROPE	At risk of poverty or social exclusion
BCR	Benefit-to-cost ratio
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CARE	Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe
CEAP	Circular Economy Action Plan
Cedefop	European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training
CEF	Connecting Europe Facility
CF	Cohesion Fund
CLC	CORINE land cover
CLLD	Community-led local development
COFOG	Classification of functions of government
CRII	Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative
CRiT	Coal regions in transition
CSR	Country-specific recommendation
CV	Coefficient of variation
DEGURBA	Degree of urbanisation
DG ECFIN	Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs, European Commission
DG REGIO	Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
EAFO	European Alternative Fuels Observatory
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EAGF	European Agricultural Guarantee Fund
EDGAR	Emissions database for global atmospheric research
EDI	Economic development index
EEA	European Environment Agency
EEN	Enterprise Europe Network
EIBIS	European Investment Bank investment survey
EIS	European innovation scoreboard
EQI	European quality of government index
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ERP	Enterprise resource planning
ESD	Effort sharing decision
ESF+	European Social Fund (the former abbreviation was ESF)

ESIF	European Structural and Investment Funds
ETS	Emissions Trading System
EU	European Union
EUIPO	European Union Intellectual Property Office
EU-SILC	EU statistics on income and living conditions
EU-SPI	EU regional social progress index
EUSSTM	EU Strategy on Sustainable and Smart Mobility
FDI	Foreign direct investment
FemAI	Female achievement index
FemDI	Female disadvantage index
FUA	Functional urban area
FRA	Functional rural area
GBER	General Block Exemption Regulation
GDP	Gross domestic product
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GNI	Gross national income
GVA	Gross value added
GVC	Global value chain
HDEP	High decarbonising employment potential
ILA	Individual learning account
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISCED	International standard classification of education
ISCO	International standard classification of occupations
ITI	Integrated Territorial Investment
JRC	Joint Research Centre, European Commission
JTF	Just Transition Fund
JTM	Just Transition Mechanism
LAI	Local autonomy index
LAU	Local administrative unit
LBM	LUISA base map
LFS	(EU) Labour force survey
LIFE	L'Instrument Financier pour L'Environnement
M&A	Mergers and acquisitions
MAD	Mean absolute deviation
MA	Managing authority
MFF	Multi-annual Financial Framework
MNE	Multinational enterprise
MUNIFI	Municipal fiscal data (database)
NACE	Nomenclature statistique des activités économiques (statistical classification of economic activities)
NECP	National Energy and Climate Plan
NECD	National Emission Reduction Commitment Directive
NEET	Not in employment, education or training
NGEU	NextGenerationEU)NMVOC Non-methane volatile organic compound
NSI	National Statistical Institute
NUTS	Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OP	Operational Programme
PISA	(OECD) Programme for international student assessment
PO	Policy objective

pp	Percentage point
PPS	Purchasing power standards
PSM	Propensity score matching
RAI	Regional authority index
RCI	Regional competitiveness index
R&D	Research and development
RDEP	Restricted decarbonising employment potential
REACT	Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe
REGOFI	Regional government finance and investment database
R&I	Research and innovation
RIS	Regional innovation scoreboard
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
RTDI	Research, technological development and innovation
SAM	Social accounting matrix
SDEP	Slow decarbonising employment potential
SDG	Sustainable development goal
STEM	Science, technology, engineering and mathematics
TED	Tenders Electronic Daily
TEN-T	Trans-European transport network
TFP	Total factor productivity
TJTP	Territorial Just Transition Plan
TSI	Technical Support Instrument
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments
UIC	International Union of Railways
VEG-GAP	Vegetation for Urban Green Air Quality Plan
VET	Vocational education and training
WGI	Worldwide governance indicator
WHO	World Health Organization
WJP	World justice project
YEI	Youth Employment Initiative

For ease of reading, funds are consistently referred to by their current name even if some of these funds have changed name over time.

Member States and their abbreviation

BE	Belgium
BG	Bulgaria
CZ	Czechia
DK	Denmark
DE	Germany
EE	Estonia
IE	Ireland
EL	Greece
ES	Spain
FR	France
HR	Croatia
IT	Italy
CY	Cyprus
LV	Latvia
LT	Lithuania
LU	Luxembourg

HU	Hungary
MT	Malta
NL	Netherlands
AT	Austria
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
RO	Romania
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovakia
FI	Finland
SE	Sweden

Geographical groupings

Member State groupings

By geographic area

Eastern Member States: BG, CZ, EE, HR, LV, LT, HU, PL, RO, SI, SK

Southern Member States: EL, ES, IT, CY, MT, PT

North-western Member States: BE, DK, DE, IE, FR, LU, NL, AT, FI, SE

By level of development

Less developed Member States: BG, EL, HR, LV, LT, HU, PL, RO (GNI per head below 75 % of EU-27 average in 2015–2017).

Moderately developed Member States: CZ, EE, CY, MT, PT, SI, SK (GNI per head between 75 % and 90 % of EU-27 average in 2015–2017).

Highly developed Member States: BE, DK, DE, IE, ES, FR, IT, LU, NL, AT, FI, SE (GNI per head at least 90 % of EU-27 average in 2015–2017).

Less developed and moderately developed Member States are those eligible for support by the Cohesion Fund 2021–2027.

Types of NUTS 2 regions

Cohesion policy in the period 2021–2027 uses three categories of regions based on the GDP per head for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017 (see Map).

Less developed regions: GDP per head (PPS) below 75 % of the EU-27 average.

Transition regions: GDP per head (PPS) between 75 % to 100 % of the EU-27 average.

More developed regions: GDP per head (PPS) above 100 % of the EU-27 average.

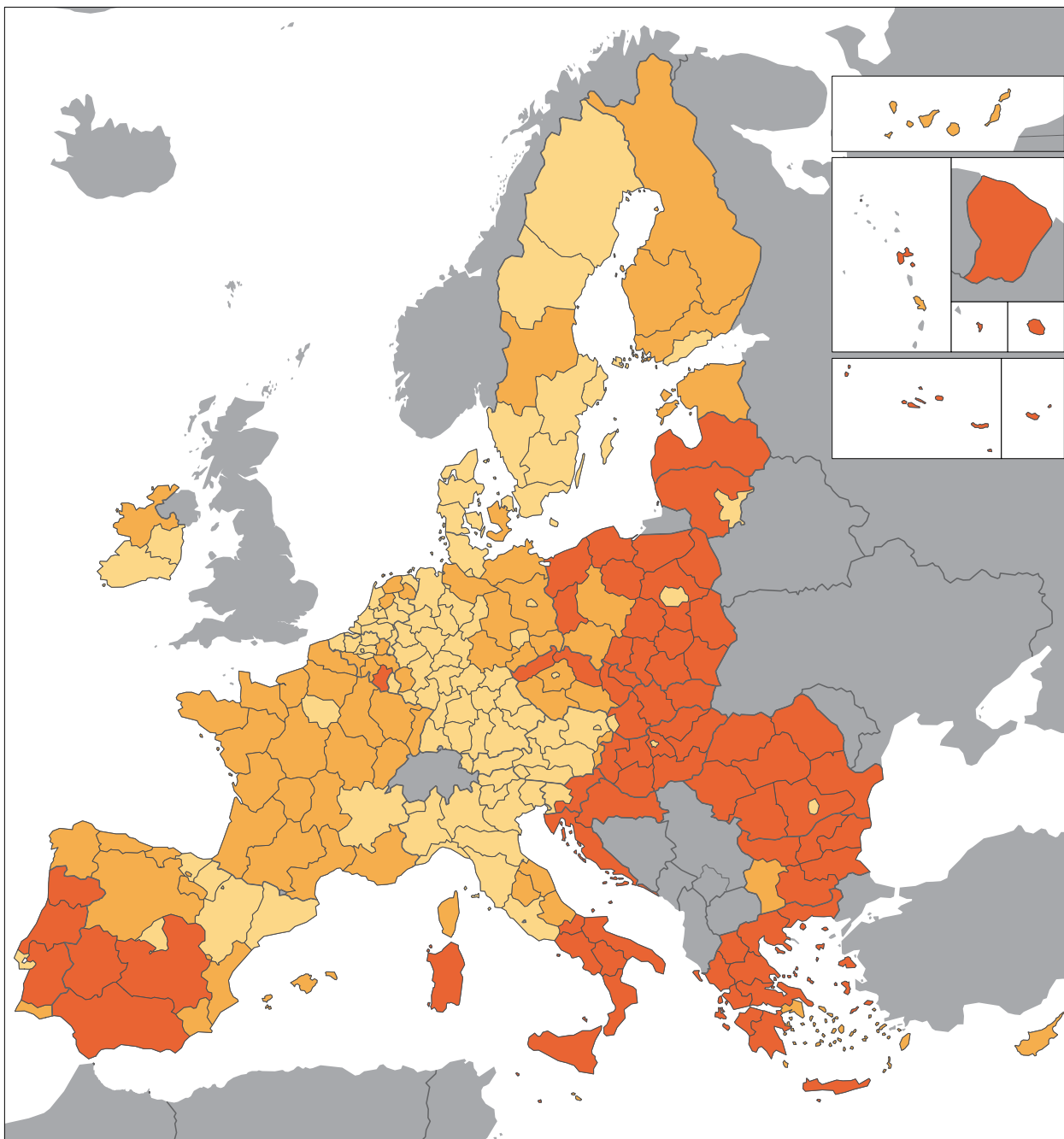
Types of regions and areas

Metropolitan regions

This is a classification of regions at NUTS 3 level, established as EU territorial typology in the TERCET Regulation. This classification was developed in co-operation with the OECD. It consists of NUTS 3 approximation of all functional urban areas of more than 250 000. Two types of metropolitan regions are identified: capital and other. The capital metropolitan region contains the national capital. A detailed methodology is included in the Eurostat Methodological manual on territorial typologies (2018 edition).

Predominantly urban, intermediate, predominantly rural regions

This is a classification of regions at NUTS 3 level, established as EU territorial typology in the TERCET Regulation. A detailed methodology is included in the Eurostat Methodological manual on territorial typologies (2018 edition). See maps 3.1 and 3.2 in this report.



Category of regions for Cohesion Policy (ERDF and ESF+), 2021–2027

- Less developed regions (GDP per head (PPS) less than 75 % of the EU-27 average)
- Transition regions (GDP per head (PPS) between 75 % and 100 % of the EU-27 average)
- More developed regions (GDP per head (PPS) above 100 % of the EU-27 average)

GDP per head: average 2015–2016–2017.

0 500 km

© EuroGeographics Association for the administrative boundaries

Border regions

Border regions are NUTS 3 regions with an international land border or regions where more than half of the population lives within 25 km of such a border.

Outermost regions

EU outermost regions are Canarias (Spain), Guyane, Guadeloupe, La Réunion, Martinique, Mayotte and Saint-Martin (France), Açores and Madeira (Portugal). For the purpose of the NUTS classification, Saint-Martin is part of the NUTS 2 region Guadeloupe.

Degree of urbanisation

Cities: local administrative units with more than 50 % of their population in an urban centre.

Towns and suburbs: local administrative units with more than 50 % of their population in urban clusters but less than 50 % living in an urban centre.

Rural area: local administrative units with more than 50 % of their population in rural grid cells.

The degree of urbanisation classification is based on a typology of 1 km² grid cells. At grid cell level, a more detailed typology has been defined, distinguishing six classes:

- Cities
- Towns
- Suburbs
- Villages
- Dispersed rural areas

Mostly uninhabited areas. For more information see:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/ks-02-20-499>

Cities, commuting zones and functional urban areas

Cities: same definition as above.

Commuting zones: contiguous local administrative units with at least 15 % of their working population commuting to a city.

Functional urban areas: the city plus its commuting zone. For more information see:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/ks-02-20-499>