IMPLEMENTATION OF E-COHESION

General characteristics

GERMANY

No. of **targeted national/regional operational programmes** covering ERDF/CF: **16**

No. of **e-Cohesion systems**: **15**

At a glance:

e-Cohesion systems: 15 regional systems identified.

Introduction of the systems: The systems were introduced at different points in time during the 2014-2020 funding period. Two systems (DiVa in North-Rhine Westphalia and ZEBRA in Bremen) have not been used operationally until the end of the funding period.

Types of systems: Regional systems - they only cover the regional OP and do not support any Interreg programmes.

Implementation mode: Highly decentralised.

Use during 2021-2027: Most of the systems will be used in an updated form.

Fund coverage of the systems: ☑ ERDF ☐ CF

Context and structure of e-Cohesion

- Germany's implementation of e-Cohesion is **highly decentralised** - different regions use their own e-Cohesion system; some regions use e-Cohesion systems that are based on the same technological basis but have been adapted to meet programme-specific requirements;

- Some e-Cohesion systems are linked to **monitoring systems for ESIF**;

- 1 of 15 systems is integrated with the **European Commission's System for Fund Management (SFC2014)**;

- In 12 of 15 systems all **major authorities and intermediate bodies** access the data submitted by applicants and beneficiaries through the respective OP's e-Cohesion system;

- In most regions, the existing e-Cohesion system is only used by very few applicants / beneficiaries.

- 2 out of 16 OPs (Hamburg and Saarland) have not implemented an e-Cohesion system yet and exchange information through paper-based processes with beneficiaries;

- In the **Berlin** region**, two e-cohesion systems** are used for one OP (IBB-Kundenportal and Eureka);

- 8 of 15 e-Cohesion systems support not only the key processes related to implementation, but they also handle the application process: ESIF **applicants and beneficiaries** exchange information directly using their OP's respective e-Cohesion system;

- Most systems have no integration of electronic signature procedures which is why there is **an extensive parallel exchange** of paper documents.

Implementation of e-Cohesion

Principles: Interoperability and once-only encoding

- Most e-Cohesion systems in Germany **support once-only encoding**: Data and documents provided by beneficiaries are shared with all relevant authorities;

- Most systems **support the pre-filling of information:** Information is pre-filled based on data entered during previous steps of the operation.

e-Cohesion features: Coverage of processes and functionalities

- **2 of 15 e-Cohesion systems support all processes related to project application and implementation** (progress reports, modification requests, payment claims and management verifications / on-the-spot checks);

- **6 of 15 e-Cohesion systems only support progress reports and payment claims**;

- **Most e-Cohesion systems support functionalities which ensure user-friendliness** (interactive forms, automatic calculations, checks for incorrect/missing data, system-generated alerts, online status tracking, access to already processed data).

Please note that this fiche is not informed by the survey results. We did not receive enough responses, therefore, the information presented in this fiche builds on desk research and additional information received from relevant authorities.