

# IMPLEMENTATION OF E-COHESION

## General characteristics



ROMANIA



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

4



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

1

### At a glance

**e-Cohesion system:** MySMIS

**Introduction of the system:** Operational since 2014.

**Type of the system:** National system, does not support any Interreg programmes.

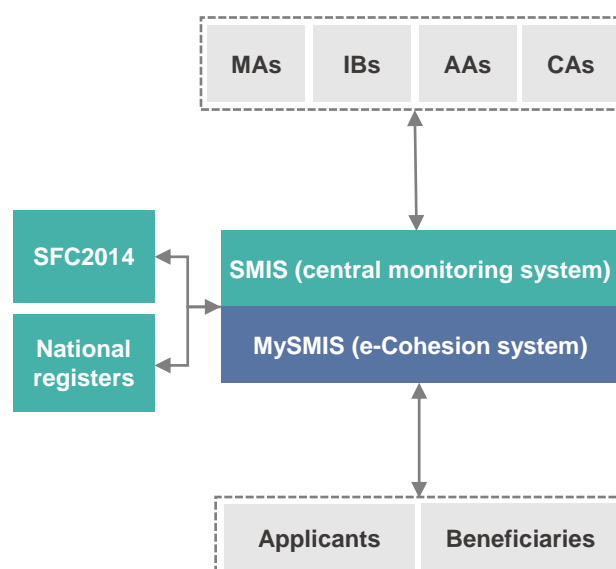
**Implementation mode:** Highly centralised.

**Use during 2021-2027:** Ongoing development (based on existing system).

**Fund coverage of the system:** ☒ ERDF ☒ CF

## Context and structure of e-Cohesion

- e-Cohesion in Romania is **highly centralised** – MySMIS is the only system used in the country and covers all four national OPs;
- MySMIS is **highly interoperable** – the system is integrated with the **central monitoring system for ESIF (SMIS)**, some **national/governmental registers**, and is also integrated with the **European Commission's System for Fund Management (SFC2014)**;
- The e-Cohesion system supports not only the key processes related to implementation, but also handles the application process - **ESIF applicants and beneficiaries** exchange information directly using MySMIS;
- MySMIS supports the use of a **qualified e-signature**.



## Key principles of e-Cohesion: interoperability and once-only encoding



**Principles:** Extensive reuse of information; interoperability with EU tools.

MySMIS **supports once-only encoding**. Data and documents provided by beneficiaries are shared with all relevant authorities.

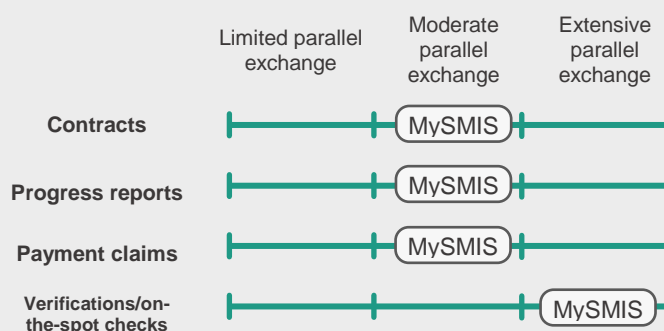
The system **extensively supports the pre-filling of information**:

- Information is pre-filled based on data entered during the project application and during previous steps of the operation and from some national registers;
- The pre-filling of information is highly valued** – nearly all beneficiary respondents using MySMIS aware of this functionality perceived it as useful to their operations (resulting in efficiency gains and reducing the number of errors).



**Parallel data exchanges:** Moderate exchange of information outside of the system.

While being the officially provided solution, the use of MySMIS is not mandatory. **Data exchanges outside the system are extensive for verifications/on-the-spot checks**, and are moderate during all other processes.



## Implementation of e-Cohesion features



**Key processes:** Support of project cycle from start to finish.

- **MySMIS supports all operations related to project application and implementation** (progress reports, modification requests, payment claims and management verifications/on-the-spot checks);



**Functionalities:** Support for all required functionalities, including interactive forms.

- **MySMIS supports all functionalities associated with user-friendliness** (interactive forms, automatic calculations, checks for incorrect/missing data, system-generated alerts, online status tracking, validity of e-signature and availability of previous data);
- **Nearly all beneficiary respondents aware of the functionalities provided by MySMIS consider them as useful**, meaning that they result in notable time gains and reduce the number of errors for their users.

## Results of the introduction of e-Cohesion

### Effectiveness – results and simplification

- The introduction of MySMIS has resulted in **extensive improvements and simplification**;
- Nearly all respondents agree that the introduction of the system has led to significant improvements in various areas and has simplified the way they handle information compared with paper-based processes or email exchanges;
- **MySMIS has extensively improved information exchanges between authorities and beneficiaries** – most respondents report that its use has reduced repeated transmission of the same information, indicating that once-only encoding is highly valued by users of the system.



### Efficiency – benefits vs costs

- The **benefits of using MySMIS compared to its costs are extensive** across beneficiaries' key processes;
- Nearly all respondents indicate that the benefits (reduced administrative burden, simplified procedures) of using the system outweigh any associated costs (the time and effort required to use it).

### User-friendliness

- **MySMIS shows moderate user-friendliness** – most beneficiaries perceive the system as easy to navigate and operate, and consider it as clear and self-explanatory;
- Indication for high satisfaction among users of e-Cohesion systems is whether authorities continue to develop and improve the existing system. In the case of MySMIS, **most beneficiary respondents feel that the system's functionalities and its overall functioning are being continuously improved, indicating extensive improvements.**

