

IMPLEMENTATION OF E-COHESION



General characteristics

 No. of **targeted national/regional operational programmes** covering ERDF/CF: **3**

 No. of **e-Cohesion systems**: **2**

At a glance:

e-Cohesion systems: 2 regional systems identified.

Introduction of the systems: The systems were introduced at different points in time during the 2014-2020 funding period. EUROGES2014 was launched in 2015 and covers 2 regional OPs, while E-Loket was launched in 2017 and covers 1 regional OP.

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

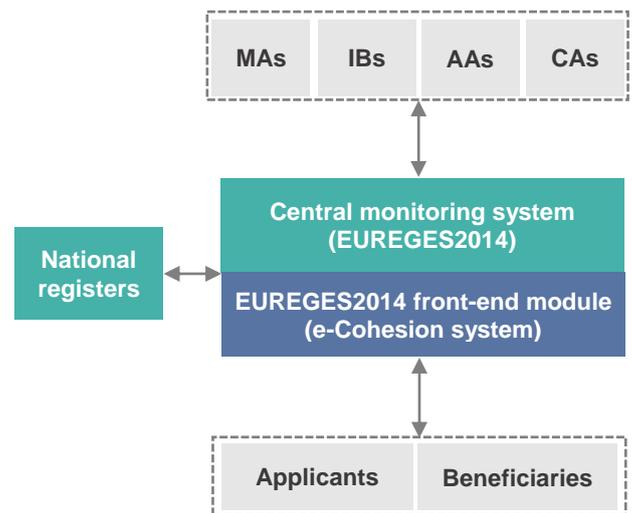
Implementation mode: Decentralised.

Use during 2021-2027: EUROGES2014 will be replaced by a newly developed system for the 2021 - 2027 funding period. It is not known whether E-Loket will continue to be used for this funding period.

Fund coverage of the systems: ERDF CF

Context and structure of e-Cohesion

- Belgium's implementation of e-Cohesion is **decentralised**. The two regions Flanders (E-Loket) and Wallonia (EUREGES2014) use their own e-Cohesion systems;
- In the funding context, Brussels is regarded as a separate third region and uses the Wallonia system;
- EUROGES2014 is designed as a **central monitoring system** with an **integrated e-Cohesion front-end module**;
- E-Loket is linked to a different central monitoring system;
- E-Loket is integrated with the **European Commission's System for Fund Management (SFC2014)**;
- The systems are connected with some national registers;
- All major **authorities** access the data submitted by applicants and beneficiaries through the central monitoring system.



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

 **Principles:** Extensive reuse of information.

The e-Cohesion systems **support once-only encoding**. Data and documents provided by beneficiaries are shared with all relevant authorities;

Both systems **extensively support the pre-filling of information**:

- Information is pre-filled based on data entered during the project application and during previous steps of the operation;
- **The pre-filling of information is highly valued** – nearly all beneficiary respondents using EUREGES2014 or E-Loket aware of this functionality perceived it as useful to their operations (resulting in efficiency gains and reducing the number of errors).

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

EUREGES2014 is 1 of 2 provided solution for applicants and beneficiaries in Belgium. **Data exchanges outside the system are extensive for the preparation and signing of grants and verifications/on-the-spot checks.**

	Limited parallel exchange	Moderate parallel exchange	Extensive parallel exchange
Contracts	—	—	EUREGES
Progress reports	—	EUREGES	—
Payment claims	—	EUREGES	—
Verifications/on-the-spot checks	—	—	EUREGES

Implementation of e-Cohesion features



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

- **EUREGES2014 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.

- **EUREGES2014 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).
- **Most beneficiary respondents aware of the functionalities provided by EUREGES2014 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 EUREGES2014 has resulted in **moderate improvements and simplification**;
- Most 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;
- **EUREGES2014 has moderately improved information exchanges between authorities and beneficiaries** – more than half of respondents report that its use has reduced repeated transmission of the same information.



Efficiency – benefits vs costs

- **The benefits of using EUREGES2014 compared to its costs are moderate** across beneficiaries' key processes;
- More than half of 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

- **Beneficiaries using EUREGES2014 report moderate levels of user-friendliness** – more than half of beneficiaries perceive the system as easy to navigate and operate but most respondents do not consider it as clear and self-explanatory;
- An 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 EUREGES2014, nearly all beneficiary respondents feel that the **system's functionalities and its overall functioning are not being continuously improved.**

