

IMPLEMENTATION OF E-COHESION

General characteristics



No. of **targeted national/regional operational programmes** covering ERDF/CF: **2**



No. of **e-Cohesion systems**: **1**

At a glance:

e-Cohesion system: EURA2014

Introduction of the system: Operational since 2014.

Type of the system: National system - it covers one national OP and does not support any Interreg programmes.

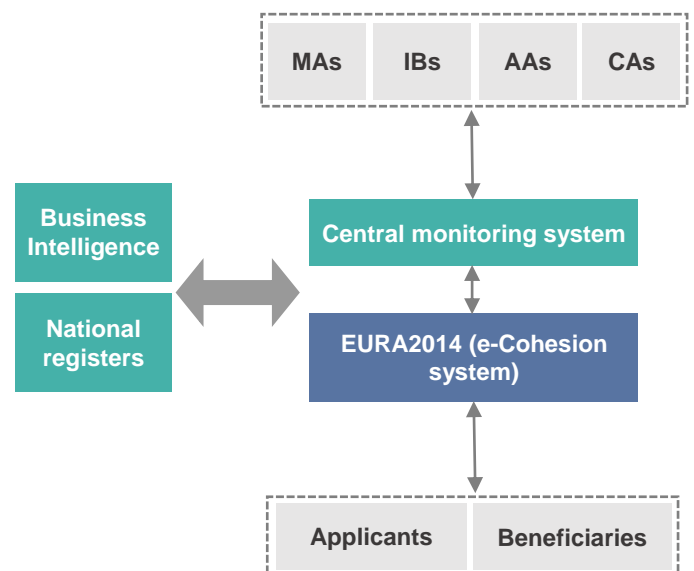
Implementation mode: Centralised.

Use during 2021-2027: New system will be developed/purchased.

Fund coverage of the system: ☒ ERDF ☐ CF

Context and structure of e-Cohesion

- E-Cohesion in Finland is **centralised** – out of the two national OP's that are within the scope of this evaluation, one is covered by EURA2014 - "Sustainable growth and jobs 2014-2020 - Structural Funds Programme of Finland". E-Cohesion is not relevant for the Finnish SME OP as this financial instrument is managed through banking institutions;
- EURA2014 is linked with a **central monitoring system** and some **national governmental registers**, such as tax authority database, from which information such as company registration numbers and tax debts are directly accessed;
- EURA2014 is not integrated with the **European Commission's System for Fund Management (SFC2014)**;
- EURA2014 supports not only the key processes related to implementation, but also handles the application process;
- EURA2014 offers a **qualified e-Signature**.



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



Principles: Extensive reuse of information; no interoperability with EU tools.

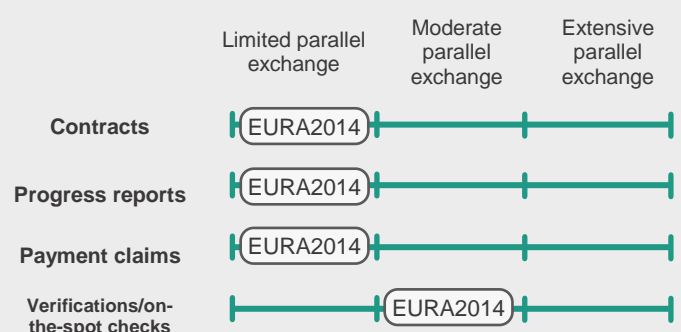
EURA2014 **supports once-only encoding on the project-level**. Data and documents provided by beneficiaries are shared with all relevant authorities.

- While the system generally **supports the pre-filling of information**, not enough data is available to confirm from which sources information is pre-filled;
- The pre-filling of information is highly valued** – all beneficiary respondents using EURA2014 aware of this functionality perceived it as useful to their operations (resulting in efficiency gains and reducing the number of errors).



Parallel data exchanges: Limited exchange of information outside of the system.

While being the officially provided solution, the use of EURA2014 is not mandatory. **Beneficiaries indicate that they use the system for most key processes very extensively**, with limited data exchanges taking place outside the system.



Implementation of e-Cohesion features



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

- **EURA2014 supports all operations related to project application and implementation** (progress reports, modification requests, payment claims and management verifications/on-the-spot checks);
- **Contracts for grants and other support and payment claims are key processes of EURA2014** – nearly all beneficiary respondents indicate that they submitted all of their relevant data and documents only through the system for these processes.



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

- **EURA2014 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 IS KP14+ 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 EURA2014 has resulted in **extensive 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;
- **EURA2014 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 EURA2014 compared to its costs are extensive** across beneficiaries' key processes;
- Most 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

- **EURA2014 shows moderate user-friendliness** – most beneficiaries perceive the system as easy to navigate and operate, and more than half 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 EURA2014, **half of beneficiary respondents feel that the system's functionalities and its overall functioning are being continuously improved, indicating moderate improvements.**

