

# IMPLEMENTATION OF E-COHESION

### General characteristics

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

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

#### At a glance:

**e-Cohesion systems:** Monitoring Information System (MIS) and State Aid Information System (PSKE).

**Introduction of the systems:** Both systems were introduced in 2007.

**Type of the systems:** National systems - they both cover the same 16 national/regional OPs. In addition to national/regional OPs, **MIS** also supports several Interreg programmes.

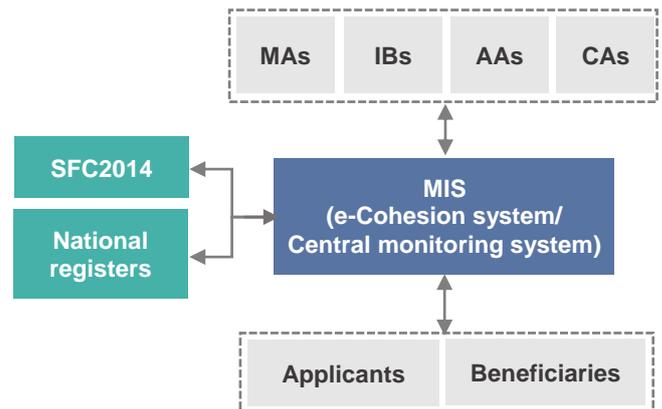
**Implementation mode:** Centralised.

**Use during 2021-2027:** MIS will be used in an updated version for the 2021 - 2027 funding period. It is not known whether PSKE will continue to be used for this funding period.

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

### Context and structure of e-Cohesion

- Greece's implementation of e-Cohesion is **centralised** – MIS and PSKE are the only systems used in the country and all 16 national/regional OPs are covered by both systems – this is because PSKE is used across all programmes for state-aid projects;
- MIS is the central monitoring system** in Greece and offers the functionality of e-Cohesion. It is linked with **other national registers**;
- MIS** is integrated with the **European Commission's System for Fund Management (SFC2014)** via interface;
- All major **authorities** access the data submitted by applicants and beneficiaries through the central monitoring system (**MIS**);
- The e-Cohesion system supports not only the key processes related to implementation, but also handles the application process. Thus, **applicants and beneficiaries** exchange information directly using MIS.



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

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

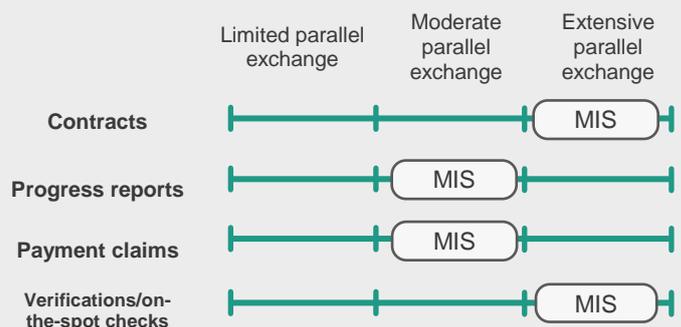
MIS **supports once-only encoding**. Data and documents provided by beneficiaries are shared with all relevant authorities on the project level.

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.
- The pre-filling of information is highly valued** – nearly all beneficiary respondents using MIS 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.**

MIS is 1 of 2 provided solution for applicants and beneficiaries. **Data exchanges outside the system are extensive for the preparation and signing of grants and verifications/on-the-spot checks**, and are moderate during progress reports and payment claims.



## Implementation of e-Cohesion features



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

- **MIS 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.

- **MIS 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 MIS 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 MIS 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;
- **MIS 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 MIS 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

- **Beneficiaries using MIS report a moderate level of user-friendliness** – most users perceive the system as clear and self-explanatory but using the system requires some training and time.
- 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 MIS, most beneficiary **respondents feel that the system's functionalities and its overall functioning are being continuously improved, indicating extensive improvements.**

