

# IMPLEMENTATION OF E-COHESION

## General characteristics



No. of **targeted national/regional operational programmes** covering ERDF/CF: **21**



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

### At a glance:

**e-Cohesion system:** SL2014

**Introduction of the system:** Operational since 2015.

**Type of the system:** National system that also supports several Interreg programmes.

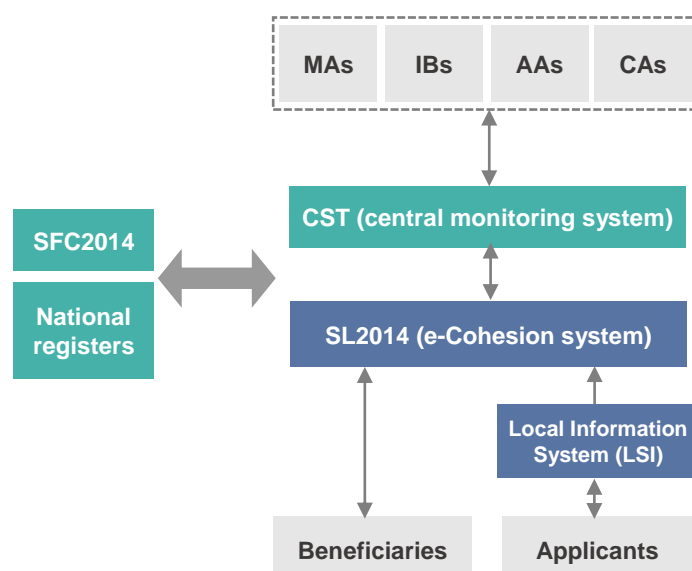
**Implementation mode:** Centralised.

**Use during 2021-2027:** It is foreseen that a new system will be developed.

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

## Context and structure of e-Cohesion

- e-Cohesion in Poland is **centralised** – SL2014 covers 20 out of 21 national/regional OPs and several Interreg programmes, whereas the second system (LSI2014+) covers only one regional OP;
- SL2014 showcases **high levels of interoperability**; it is part of the **central monitoring system (CST)** and linked to several other **national governmental registers** (e.g., registers for EU-Contributions and statistics office);
- SL2014 is integrated with the **European Commission's System for Fund Management (SFC2014)**;
- SL2014 supports most key processes related to project implementation but not the application process – applicants use programme-specific Local Information Systems (LSI);
- The system 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.

SL2014 **supports once-only encoding on the project-level**. Data and documents provided by beneficiaries are shared with all relevant authorities.

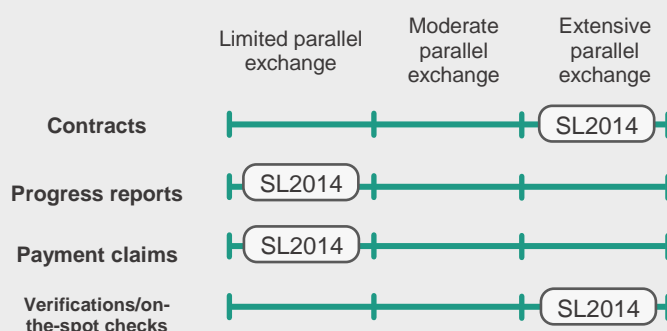
The system **extensively supports the pre-filling of information**:

- 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 SL2014 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 the use of SL2014 is mandatory for project management, **data exchanges outside the system are extensive for the preparation and signing of grants and verifications/on-the-spot checks**.



## Implementation of e-Cohesion features



### Key processes: Coverage of most key processes.

- SL2014 supports progress reports, payment claims and management verifications/on-the-spot checks;
- **No support for modification requests and applications** (OPs use different Local Information Systems);
- **Payment claims are a key process of SL2014** – 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.

- **SL2014 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 SL2014 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 SL2014 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;
- **SL2014 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 SL2014 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

- **SL2014 shows extensive 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 SL2014, **more than half of beneficiary respondents feel that the system's functionalities and its overall functioning are being continuously improved, indicating moderate improvements.**

