

IMPLEMENTATION OF E-COHESION

General characteristics



No. of **targeted national/regional operational programmes** covering ERDF/CF: **5**



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

At a glance:

e-Cohesion system: Development Policy Management System (FAIR) EPTK

Introduction of the system: Operational since 2014.

Type of the system: National system - it covers all national OPs and does not support Interreg programmes.

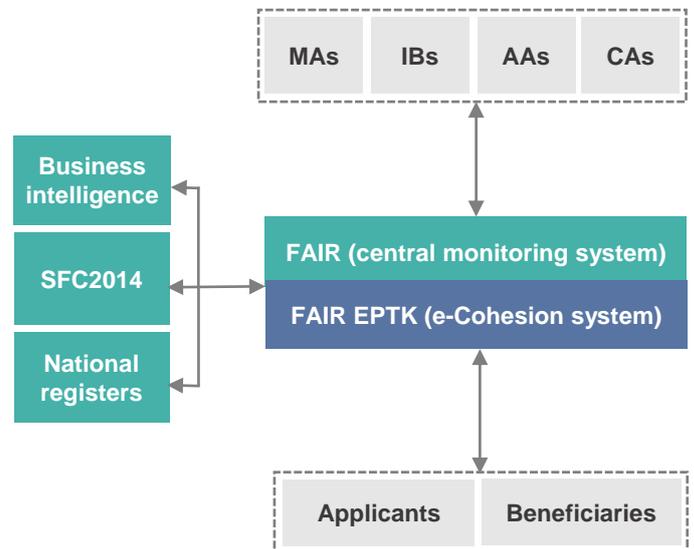
Implementation mode: Highly centralised.

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 Hungary is **highly centralised** – FAIR EPTK is the only system used in the country and covers all five national OPs;
- FAIR EPTK showcase a **high level of interoperability**; it is linked with the **central monitoring system for ESIF (FAIR)** and several **national governmental registers**, mainly public administration systems such as taxation authority registers, land registration database, etc.;
- FAIR is also integrated with the **European Commission's System for Fund Management (SFC2014)**;
- E-Cohesion system supports the key processes related to implementation, as well as the application process - ESIF **applicants and beneficiaries** exchange information directly using FAIR EPTK.



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



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

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

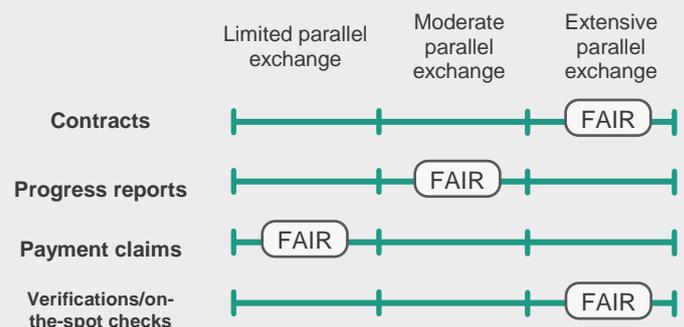
The system **extensively supports the pre-filling of information**:

- 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 FAIR EPTK 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 FAIR EPTK is not mandatory. **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.



Implementation of e-Cohesion features



Key processes: Coverage of nearly all key processes.

- FAIR EPTK supports applications, progress reports, payment claims and management verifications/on-the-spot checks;
- It is not known whether the system supports modification requests.



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

- FAIR EPTK 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 FAIR EPTK consider them as very 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 FAIR EPTK 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;
- **FAIR EPTK 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 FAIR EPTK 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

- **FAIR EPTK 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 FAIR EPTK, **nearly all beneficiary respondents feel that the system's functionalities and its overall functioning are being continuously improved, indicating extensive improvements.**

