

PROFESSIONAL AND EFFICIENT EU FUNDS MANAGEMENT

***Towards a simpler cohesion policy:
experience from the Île-de-France region***

Stéphanie Von Euw, Vice-president in charge of European affairs,
Île-de-France Regional Council

GOOD GOVERNANCE
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Ile-de-France can testify that the 7th Cohesion Report is right...



“Even in wealthier regions, poverty and social exclusion are still too high.” (p. 4) and “pockets of poverty exist even in relatively well-off cities” (p. 16)



“The impact of globalisation, migration, poverty and a lack of innovation, climate change, energy transition and pollution is not limited to less developed regions.”(p. 26)




*“Capital and metro regions are the main drivers of regional competitiveness in Europe” (p. 46) but several maps (NUTS 3 level) of the Cohesion Report illustrate **the existing sub-regional disparities***




Lessons from the Regional operational programme (ERDF-ESF-YEI) 2014 -2020




Region is responsible for €540 million of ESIF (ESF, ERDF, EAFRD): Implementation of a new ambitious European strategy to be exemplary when using this envelope.



These funds support regional projects in strategic fields of competitiveness, access to lifelong learning and jobs, technological developments and energy transition, tackling new EU challenges.



They all contribute to dealing with real needs in order to reduce economic, social and environmental disparities within Paris region.



For the allocation of cohesion envelopes, **the introduction of complementary indicators** – including sub-regional ones – in addition to regional GDP per capita, is needed for a **sharper identification of strengths and weaknesses** of a territory.

Lessons from the *Cahier d'acteurs*

The Region has implemented a survey in May and June 2017, collecting the point of views and recommendations from 70 beneficiaries on the European funds.


The *Cahier d'acteurs* shows that :

- 8/10 beneficiaries are satisfied** with the European funds.
- 64%** of beneficiaries said that Cohesion Policy helps **spread the European identity**.

However, beneficiaries expressed concerns about the complexity of the implementation system and highlighted the need for simplification: **only 13%** considered that their project is implemented more quickly with the support of European funds.



Simplification: beyond the “mantra”



The 7th Cohesion Report shows that implementation has been slow : “Projects selected halfway through the 2014–2020 period [...] suggests that **there is a continuing need for simplification and capacity building.**” (p. 175)



The application of the automatic decommitment rule has been avoided so far in the Ile-de-France Region.




STOP disproportionate administrative burden:

- 5 controls for a single project is far too much!
- Simplified cost options should be extended.
- Indicators should be set up in relation with regional specificities and their number should be reduced.
- Regional OPs have to be flexible enough to enable adjustments during the seven-year implementation period.

Towards a simpler cohesion policy

Ile-de-France proposals are shared and promoted by :

 **The Marc JOULAUD Report** on strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion in the EU (adopted on 17/04) where the EP:

- Supports a shift in Cohesion Policy towards a greater focus on results and content, moving away from an accounting-based approach towards one which focuses on performance and allows managing authorities more flexibility as to how to achieve targets.
- Stresses the need to avoid over-regulation [...], establishing a simplified procedure for targeted modification during programming in order to adequately respond to changing global realities and regional demand.

Towards a simpler cohesion policy

Ile-de-France proposals are shared and promoted by :

- Calls for requirements in respect of the programming, implementation and monitoring of the ESI Funds in future to be based on the principles of differentiation and proportionality, [...] in accordance with the amounts allocated to programmes, the risk profile, the quality of administration and the level of financing by recipients.
- Calls on the Commission to [...introduce] the principle of a new label to reward managing authorities which have demonstrated their ability to comply with the rules.

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Ile-de-France agrees with...

 The General Affairs Council's conclusions on Cohesion (adopted on 12/04) where the EU Ministers CONSIDER that :

- A substantial simplification of the implementation of the ESI Funds post-2020 is needed.
- The delivery system of Cohesion Policy post-2020 should be strongly based on the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, recognizing the important role of the competent authorities of Member States and regions with regards to programming, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, controlling and auditing.
- The audits performed by the Commission should be risk-based and follow the single audit approach to avoid over-auditing.

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Ile-de-France agrees with...



- Greater flexibility in the programming and re-programming should be ensured, thus allowing Member States and regions to accommodate their specific needs within the thematic scope of Cohesion Policy.
- A simpler system of indicators [...] would allow easier collection of data to assess the performance of cohesion policy and the ESI Funds while simplifying reporting.

Conclusions

In order to support a professional and efficient EU funds' management, the Ile-de-France Region:

1. Supports **the continuation of an EU cohesion policy (ERDF and ESF) to the benefit of all European regions;**
 - **Shared management with a central role for regional authorities.**
2. Calls for a **simplification of procedures (including indicators)** and greater flexibility in the implementation processes coupled with a **sharper thematic concentration.**
3. Proposes the introduction of a **new label to reward Regions** that have put in place robust and reliable processes during the previous programming period with **less procedural monitoring and control.**

**Thank you
for your
attention**

