

1. ANNEX 1 – SYNOPTIC TABLES

Introduction

The synoptic tables which are used to summarise the key results of the analysis of Position Papers and Partnership Agreement also provide a synthetic assessment of the experts on the alignment between the document and the Semester. This assessment is based on a qualitative analysis and is hence subjective. To ensure a judgement as consistent as possible across countries, the guidelines circulated among the experts provided instructions on how to assign “scores” according to a 3-point scale:

- 3 – High alignment → The document addresses key areas of cohesion relevant CSRs/structural challenges. The initiatives proposed/envisaged contribute to tackle the respective challenges.
- 2 – Medium alignment → The document addresses certain elements of the cohesion relevant CSRs/structural challenges. The initiatives proposed/envisaged contribute to tackle the respective challenges.
- 1 – Low alignment → The document does not address cohesion relevant CSRs/structural challenges significantly and it is unclear if the measures proposed will contribute to tackle the relevant challenges.

List of tables

Annex Table 1 - Key results of the analysis of Country Position Papers (CPP) across countries	2
Annex Table 2 - Synthesis of the analysis of Partnership Agreements (PA)	26
Annex Table 3 - Key findings from the analysis of Operational Programmes	48
Annex Table 4 - Examples of Specific Objectives and indicators addressing CSRs	66
Annex Table 5 - Summary of the alignment between CSR/structural challenges and ESI Funds programming	69
Annex Table 6 - Thematic ex-ante conditionalities	72
Annex Table 7 - General ex-ante conditionalities	74
Annex Table 8 - Summary of the relation between reform triggering ExAC and CSR/structural challenges	75

Annex Table 1 - Key results of the analysis of Country Position Papers (CPP) across countries

MS	Systematic reference to CSR	Reference to other key challenges (e.g. Country Reports)	Relevant challenges not covered	CSR/structural challenges not sufficiently covered	Role played by CSR/structural challenges in selection priority/programming	Overall alignment between CSR/structural challenges and CPP
AT	All cohesion relevant 2012 CSRs are explicitly referred to in the document, especially in section 1 and 2 as well as in Annex B “assessment of funding needs”.	The structural challenges identified in the Country Report and relevant to ESI Funds are a recurrent topic throughout the Austrian CPP.	The 2012 CSR 6.1 concerning competition in the services sector is the only recommendation which is not addressed. However, this CSR cannot be linked directly to a TO and ESI funds can address it only to a limited extent.	There is a strong overlap of the CSR referring to gender equality, education, social inclusion and the CPP. Other CSR are less relevant for ESI Funds and are thus not covered in the CPP. In turn the CPP covers topics (environment, R&D&I) not covered in CSR.	High alignment. The cohesion relevant CSR play an important role in the CPP, though overall the document covers more topics than the CSR. The initiatives envisaged clearly have a potential to tackle the structural challenges.	
BE	All 2012 CSR are explicitly mentioned in Annex B ‘Assessment of funding needs in relation to TOs’ while in the other sections of CPP there are implicit references to the CSR but not to each of them separately (apart from the recommendation on reduction of GHG emissions, mentioned explicitly in section 1 on Main challenges).	There is no reference to Country Report challenges not captured by CSR	The inefficient government bureaucracy, still listed as one of the three major problems in terms of doing business in Belgium (Country Report 2012), is not mentioned anywhere in the CPP.	Central role of CPP. The CPP document sets out the key specific challenges for Belgium. Even if an explicit reference to the 2012 CSR is often not mentioned, there seems to be coherence between the recommendations adopted in July 2012 and the challenges raised in the CPP document (which was published in November 2012).	Medium alignment. The document addresses the CSR but not all reform needs.	

MS	Systematic reference to CSR	Reference to other key challenges (e.g. Country Reports)	Relevant CSR/structural challenges not sufficiently covered	Role played by CSR/structural challenges in selection of priority/programming	Overall alignment between CSR/structural challenges and CPP
BG	In general, the document makes reference to all the 2012 CSR/structural challenges. The CSR are addressed implicitly even in cases where nor there is not a specific mention of them.	Key challenges emerging from the Country Report 2012 are covered in the CPP.	<p>Even though the CSR on "ensuring sound implementation of public procurement legislation" is mentioned, the CPP does not comprehensively address the issue.</p> <p>Effective public procurement system is essential in the case of ESIF in Bulgaria. Major challenges in the sector remain persistent, while public procurement is among the domains most vulnerable to corruption and manipulation. Irregularities in public procurement procedures were also the reason for several freezes of EU finding funding in both pre-accession and 2007-2013. Despite this fact</p> <p>Public procurement was not sufficiently addressed in the 2012 CSR for Bulgaria.</p>	The selected priorities are largely in line with the provided recommendations, covering major CSR issues such as growth and labour market, education and health care, research and development and innovation, public sector capacity, social exclusion and combating poverty, etc.	<p>Medium alignment.</p> <p>Support to CSR plays a substantial role in the CPP. What is however noticeable is that according to the paper, important issues such as water and maritime management, environment, climate change, transport, etc., are not substantially addressed by the 2012 CSR. Improvement is however observed in the CSR in the following years.</p>
CZ	The CPP addresses 2012 CSR to a large extent, and in the majority of cases it mentions them	Implicit linkages to challenges identified in the 2012 Country Report are made	All cohesion relevant CSR and structural challenges are addressed in the document.	CSR are explicitly referred to be one of the bases for the selection of priorities and funding needs several times (p. 3, 5 or 10).	<p>High alignment.</p> <p>The roots and support of the key CSR related to bottlenecks at labour</p>

MS	Systematic reference to CSR	Reference to other key challenges (e.g. Country Reports)	Relevant challenges not covered	CSR/structural challenges not sufficiently covered	Role played by CSR/structural challenges in selection of priority/programming	Overall alignment between CSR/structural challenges and CPP
	explicitly. Finally, CSR are mentioned not only in the introductory part, but are recalled in relevant "thematic" sections as well. The most explicit references are included in Annex B (e.g. under the funding priority "human capital", "modern and professional administration"). The proposed actions can be considered as relevant.	within particular funding priority and TOs (e.g. regarding measures for better integration of disadvantage groups; the negative effect of parenthood on labour market and gender equality.)			<p>stating for example ..."five complementary and mutually reinforcing funding priorities are proposed hereunder in line with country-specific recommendations." These priorities include Innovation friendly business environment, Infrastructure for growth and competitiveness, Human capital driven growth and improved labour market participation, Environment friendly and resource efficient economy, Modern and professional administration.</p> <p>Further example states: "...Each Fund should give priority, when relevant, to policy areas addressed in the CSR..."(p. 10)</p> <p>All of the proposed funding priorities address some of the 2012 CSR, respectively all of the 2012 CSR are addressed explicitly at least</p>	<p>market (e.g. 2012 CSR 4,1; 2012 CR 2,1), inclusion of disadvantageous groups (e.g. 2012 CSR 4,1; 2012 CR 3,1), in the sphere of education system (e.g. 2012 CSR 6,1), public administration (esp. the Public Service Act) (e.g. 2012 CSR 5,1 and 2012 CR 5,1) are elaborated in a good detail. Some of the CSR are rather specific (e.g. regarding pre-school childcare) thus understandably not excessively expanded.</p> <p>For the key CSR, the document describes important steps or actions that need to be taken to realize particular structural reforms.</p>

MS	Systematic reference to CSR	Reference to other key challenges (e.g. Country Reports)	Relevant challenges not covered	CSR/structural challenges not sufficiently covered	Role played by CSR/structural challenges in selection of priority/programming	Overall alignment between CSR/structural challenges and CPP
					within one funding priority. As concerns explicit referring of CSR to TOs, direct elaboration is provided for the TO8 (2012 CSR 2,1 3,1; 4,1), TO10 (2012 CSR 6,1; 6,2) and TO11 (2012 CSR 5,1).	
CY	2012 CSRs/structural challenges are in most cases addressed explicitly and this is especially the case for challenges related to the improvement of the skills of the workforce (2012 CSR 5.1), the shift to business innovation (2012 CSR 5.3) and the enhancement of competitiveness of the economy (2012 CSR 7.1).	Key challenges emerging from the 2012 Country Report are addressed, particularly in the section on success factors for effective delivery which covers 2012 CR 3.1, 2012 CR 4.1 and 2012 CR 5.1.	The adoption of measures for the enhancement of the business environment and the acceleration of the process of enforcing contracts, which is indicated as a key challenge in the 2012 CR (2012 CR 1.1), is not mentioned anywhere in the CPP.		The introductory section of the CPP states that "The CSF funds will provide an important source of public investment (..) to support the implementation of the CSRs". However not all the CPP funding priorities are closely related to 2012 CSR/challenges (on innovation-friendly business environment and on the increase of labour market participation) while the third CPP priority (promoting environment-friendly and efficient use of resources, and climate change resilience for sustainable growth and jobs) was not among the CSR/challenges.	Medium alignment. There is an explicit or implicit reference to most of the relevant CSR/challenges apart from the one on business environment and the acceleration of the process of enforcing contracts.

MS	Systematic reference to CSR	Reference to other key challenges (e.g. Country Reports)	Relevant challenges not sufficiently covered	Role played by CSR/structural challenges in selection of priority/programming	Overall alignment between CSR/structural challenges and CPP
DE	<p>All of the 2012 CSR are covered though not always explicitly. In Annex B, it is set out for each funding priority how the CSR / other challenges are translated into thematic objectives. No reference to the CSR/ structural challenges is made in sections 3 (success factors for effective delivery), 4 (priorities for territorial cooperation) and Annex A (arrangements for effective programming and delivery).</p> <p>The CSR are listed in the same table which presents Europe 2020 headline target, the current situation (2011 baseline) and the national 2020 target, for those thematic objectives referring to</p>	<p>Key challenges emerging from the 2012 Country Report are addressed. Moreover, some additional challenges/ priorities are brought up in the CPP, mainly in the field of regional competitiveness and demographic change, poverty and climate change.</p>	<p>The 2012 CSR "use available scope for increased and more efficient growth-enhancing spending on education and research at all levels of government" is not as prominent as it might be expected.</p>	<p>Important role. In the introduction to Annex B it is argued that the thematic objectives were selected "according to each Member State's specific situation [...]" in agreement with the national authorities". Still, 4 out of 9 chosen thematic objectives are not directly linked to CSR (TO 2, 3, 5 and 6).</p> <p>Most of the priorities and funding needs are related to economic development, like "enhancing business innovation (incl. eco-innovation) and competitiveness", which is captured in the CSR.</p> <p>Especially well covered is the field of labour market potential, social inclusion and educational achievement.</p>	<p>Medium alignment.</p> <p>The support of CSR varies in the different policy fields. While CSR play a rather big role in the funding priority "Enhance labour market potential, social inclusion and raise educational achievement" (all 3 TOs linked to CSR), the role in the other 2 funding priorities ("Reducing regional disparities in competitiveness taking account of demographic change" and "Supporting transformation of the energy system and strengthening sustainable use of natural resource") is more modest.</p>

MS	Systematic reference to CSR	Reference to other key challenges (e.g. Country Reports)	Relevant challenges not sufficiently covered	Role played by CSR/structural challenges in selection priority/programming	Overall alignment between CSR/structural challenges and CPP
	2012 CSR. This is the case for 4 thematic objectives out of 9 covered in the CPP.				
DK	Some 2012 CSR are mentioned throughout the document (e.g. labour supply, higher education attainment rate, lower dropout rates, apprenticeships, inclusion of marginalised groups, promote low carbon economy, productivity challenges). Other aspects are less systematically mentioned (remove obstacles to competition, stability of housing market, electrified railway lines, more effective public services, regulatory burdens, barriers to market entry, remove restrictions on retail).	Key challenges emerging from the 2012 Country Report are also considered.	Apart from budgetary strategy and the reduction of regulatory burdens, a 2012 CSR which is not covered is to "Consider further preventive measures to strengthen the stability of the housing market and financial system in the medium term", including by taking account of the results of the ongoing study by the Ministry of Business and Growth.	The role is significant in some areas but not in all. The CPP has a considerable focus on SME/entrepreneurship support which has fairly high priority in Denmark but is much less prominent in the CSR.	Medium-low alignment. The document addresses certain elements of the CSR / reform needs.

MS	Systematic reference to CSR	Reference to other key challenges (e.g. Country Reports)	Relevant CSR/structural challenges not sufficiently covered	Role played by CSR/structural challenges in selection priority/programming	Overall alignment between CSR/structural challenges and CPP
EE	<p>Overall, cohesion relevant CSR are referred to systematically throughout the report, especially in parts 1 and 2.</p> <p>In the first two sections of the CPP as well as in Annex B "assessment of funding needs", the challenges raised in the 2012 CSR are generally addressed in an explicit way.</p>	Other challenges identified in the Country Report, concerning the waste management infrastructure and the interoperability of transport systems, are also addressed.	<p>The report is weaker on two 2012 CSR: CSR 2.2 on delivery of social services and CSR 5.1. on efficiency of local governments.</p> <p>Improvement of social services generally is addressed but the focus on families, parents and children is weaker.</p> <p>CSR5.1. gets introduced in Annex B, and mostly in relation to upgrading of infrastructure and energy efficiency related activities, while less attention is put on fiscal sustainability and on incentives for the merger of or increased cooperation between municipalities.</p>	<p>The selection of priorities is generally in line with funding needs and main challenges.</p> <p>CSR are generally related to resources efficiency, employment and employability of workers, transport, gender equality and LM market integration of young people, education, RTDI, energy and institutional capacity. Most of these areas are also discussed in the selection of priorities and funding needs.</p>	<p>High alignment.</p> <p>The CPP sets out the key specific challenges for Estonia and the whole strategy of the CPP reflects CSR. Mostly there are explicit references to CSR and linkages do exist between different parts of the document.</p> <p>In sum, overall the support to CSR plays a central role in the document.</p>
ES	The document refers explicitly or indirectly to all 2012 CSR. The CSR most mentioned are those referring to the labour market and employability and support to SMEs. The CSR/structural challenges are more	Other key challenges emerging from the 2012 Country Report are also covered. For instance the challenges in the area of water and waste management	All key challenges relevant to the ESI Funds are covered in the document. The missing CSR/structural challenges are those concerning public finance and taxation as well as those characterised exclusively by a regulatory nature.	<p>Central role.</p> <p>Funding priorities are proposed in line with country-specific challenges, referring in the document to the priorities identified by the Commission to co-finance in Spain.</p>	<p>High alignment.</p> <p>The Semester plays a central role in the document, which highlights the importance of Common Strategic Framework (CSF) funds to support the implementation of</p>

MS	Systematic reference to CSR	Reference to other key challenges (e.g. Country Reports)	Relevant challenges not sufficiently covered	Role played by CSR/structural challenges in selection priority/programming	Overall alignment between CSR/structural challenges and CPP
	thoroughly covered in the Main Challenges Section and in the Priorities for Funding Section, more sporadically in the others sections of the CPP.	and air pollution such as insufficient incentives for using water efficiently which results in unsustainable use.			the CSR. In most cases the document clearly defines how it is intended to support CSR and structural reforms, for example, with the fully implementation of the Water Framework Directive, with a National Social Report, with specific plans such as the National renewable Energy Action Plan, with coordination of institutions, policies and instruments, etc. to improve employability, with implementation of specific legislation for SMEs such as the Small Business Act.
FI	The CPP is focused on the CSR's connected with the main objectives of the CFS funds. These CSR are addressed explicitly or implicitly throughout the document. This is the case especially for	Additional challenges identified in the 2012 Country Report, such as early school leavers, especially migrants and	The CSR concerning public service provision (2012 CSR 2.1) and wage setting (2012 CSR 5.2) have only an indirect role in the CPP.	The selection of priorities and measures within them are well in line with the CSR, especially concerning labour market issues. In relation to competitiveness, innovation and sustainable use of resources there is also a link but the	High alignment. CSR have evidently supported the national analysis of actual challenges and the formulation of the priorities. The connection is most

MS	Systematic reference to CSR	Reference to other key challenges (e.g. Country Reports)	Relevant challenges not sufficiently covered	Role played by CSR/structural challenges in selection priority/programming	Overall alignment between CSR/structural challenges and CPP
	the recommendations concerning LM access of vulnerable groups, and improving the diversification of the business structure.	coordination in the implementation of ESIF are referred systematically in the CPP.		connection is weaker, partly because the CSR are quite general.	clear in labour market issues (youth and long-term unemployment and ageing population).
FR	The CPP does not refer systematically to the 2012 CSR challenges and expands on many issues untreated in CSR, particularly the specific problem of development of the outermost regions, and the issues of ICT, renewable energy, modernization of the Public employment service, the maritime economy, integrated urban development. The CSR cited in the CPP concern mainly the situation on the labour market (young difficulties, seniors, immigrants) and lifelong learning, which	In part: the CPP addresses the challenge identified in the 2012 Country Report on reducing the poverty rate among particularly vulnerable segments, including non-EU nationals, people living in urban deprived areas or young people between 18 and 25 years old.	Two 2012 CSR on electricity and gas (liberalisation of network industries) and on the impact of the cost of labour on competitiveness are not treated. Also a challenge emerging from the 2012 Country Report on improving the performance of the French ports, which are lagging behind in terms of performance, reliability and connections with the hinterland, is not covered.	The selection of priorities and funding needs is somehow related to the recommendations made, in relation to the market of labour (position of young people, seniors, migrants), the fight against poverty and lifelong learning. However the link between CSR and CPP is not so clear concerning the factors able to enhance the competitiveness of the economy. The CPP is much more oriented on the needs to develop research and economic innovation.	Medium alignment. The CSR play a central role about the situation of the market of labour (segmentation, difficulties for young people and seniors), about reduction of the poverty rate and about lifelong learning), However, a wide range of structural reforms as it is proposed in the CPP are not captured by CSR.

MS	Systematic reference to CSR	Reference to other key challenges (e.g. Country Reports)	Relevant challenges not covered	CSR/structural challenges not sufficiently covered	Role played by CSR/structural challenges in selection of priority/programming	Overall alignment between CSR/structural challenges and CPP
	is very disappointing in France.					
GR	The CPP was published in November 2012, therefore the analysis focused on 2012 structural challenges identified in the MOU and in the Country Report.	A thorough coverage of the challenges, also with explicit references, appears in Section 2 ("Priorities of funding"). Challenges are in most cases addressed explicitly in the document, with the exception of 2012 MOU 6.1, 9.1, 10.1 and 2012 CR 1.1, which are referenced both implicitly and explicitly.	Only the challenge related to wage setting (wage in line with productivity; minimum wage) is not mentioned (2012 MoU 8.1).	The CPP states that "each fund should give priority, when relevant, to policy areas as identified in the CSR/MoU, the Europe 2020 commitments and the NRP". The CPP is more comprehensive than the MoU as the latter does not highlight include challenges related to issues that are expected to play a pivotal role in the revival of Greek economy and for which funding will be needed (e.g. creation of new financial instruments, promotion of collaboration between universities and the business sector, innovation and ICT infrastructure, measures to combat youth unemployment, water/waste efficiency).	Medium alignment. The CPP sets out the key specific challenges for Greece and there is an explicit or implicit reference to the majority of challenges.	
HR	Croatia has become a full Member of the European Union on 1st	Structural challenges identified in the	A 2012challenge concerning the alignment of wage with productivity is not addressed.	Significant role of the Semester. In the introductory chapter it is	High alignment. The CPP document outlines the key	

MS	Systematic reference to CSR	Reference to other key challenges (e.g. Country Reports)	Relevant challenges not covered	Role played by CSR/structural challenges in selection of priority/programming	Overall alignment between CSR/structural challenges and CPP
	July 2013. It took part in the 2013 European Semester on a voluntary and informal basis. The CPP was published in December 2013 and this analysis is focused on 2013 Structural Challenges identified in the Country Report.	2013 Country Report are recalled in all sections throughout the document. Section 1 (Main challenges) and Section 2 (Funding priorities) cover all challenges, except one, implicitly (i.e. without quoting the report directly). The only exception being wage setting 17.1 Country report 2013 which was not mentioned in the CPP document at all.		stated that the ESI funds will serve as an effective means to support the implementation of the Country Specific Recommendations (issued since 2014 in the case of Croatia).	challenges Croatia is facing. Although the 2013 Country Report is not mentioned in the CPP there is a clear coherence between the recommendations there and the challenges raised in the CPP.
HU	In the first four sections of the CPP, the challenges raised in 2012 CSR are all addressed in an implicit way. In Annex B of the document the 11 TOs are paired with the relevant CSR which are quoted	In addition to the challenges captured by the CSR, the 2012 Country Report highlights a challenge on resource efficiency, waste management, which is addressed in the	All cohesion relevant 2012 CSR are addressed. Moreover, the documents reads "The CSR addressing fiscal and budgetary policy are of relevance as all projects carried out in the context of CSF funds have a secondary fiscal effect. The other five CSR have a more direct link with	Central role. The CPP highlights that the CSF serve as an effective means to support the implementation of the CSR issued in the context of the European Semester. In the funding priorities section the document	High alignment. The Semester played a central role in the document, as the funding priorities strongly overlap with the CSR and other structural challenges from the Country Report.

MS	Systematic reference to CSR	Reference to other key challenges (e.g. Country Reports)	Relevant CSR/structural challenges not sufficiently covered	Role played by CSR/structural challenges in selection of priority/programming	Overall alignment between CSR/structural challenges and CPP
	explicitly.	CPP.	the CSF funds as these include participation of women and disadvantaged groups, strengthening the capacity of the Public Employment Service and inclusion of vulnerable groups. They also focus on the quality of availability of child-care facilities, as well as the need for innovation-friendly business environment, cost-efficiency in public transport, and energy-related measures."	mentions four complementary and mutually reinforcing funding priorities, which were proposed in line with the CSR. This section refers to Annex B, where the TOs are linked directly to the specific funding areas, and indirectly to the CSR.	
IE	There was no CSR before the CPP was published. The CPP addresses challenges highlighted in the MoU.	The CPP is focused on key structural challenges that relate to: In the labour market, favouring reform and inclusion; RTDI; Product market reform as it relates to access to finance for SMEs and inadequate commercialisation of research; On network industries-correction of market failures. In doing	Apart from the challenges not directly relevant to cohesion (e.g. Pension Reform, Banking Reform, competition in services), the CPP addresses MoU challenges concerning LM and wage setting. However there is no reference on housing issues. This seems rather odd given the main challenges section begins by referring to the considerable problems in recent years to the Irish economy from the 'implosion of the real estate boom'.	Marginal role. There are some indications that the selection of priorities is related to MoU challenges, only as far as LM reform and wage setting are concerned.	Medium alignment. Alignment is relatively indirect as MoU challenges are defined at a relatively high level of abstraction.

MS	Systematic reference to CSR	Reference to other key challenges (e.g. Country Reports)	Relevant challenges not sufficiently covered	Role played by CSR/structural challenges in selection priority/programming	Overall alignment between CSR/structural challenges and CPP
		so, the CPP addresses the challenges highlighted in the MoU.			
IT	The document refers to CSR/structural challenges systematically. All but three cohesion relevant CSR / structural challenges have been considered in the position paper, mostly implicitly in the Sections 1-4 and explicitly in Annex B – Assessment of funding needs.	All the additional challenges identified in the 2012 Country Report are addressed in the CPP, either implicitly or explicitly in Annex B.	2012 CSR 5.3 “Take further action to shift the tax burden away from capital and labour to property and consumption as well as environment” and 2012 CSR 4.3 “Monitor and if needed reinforce the implementation of the new wage setting framework” are not mentioned (explicitly or implicitly) in the CPP. Nonetheless these CSR mostly require regulatory change.	The 2012 CSR are indicated (along with other references) as background justification for the selection of the main challenges identified in the CPP. Furthermore, Section 1 on the “main challenges” states that “consistently with the Council recommendations and taking account of Italy's persistent regional disparities, the most pressing challenges for Italy are to re-launch its path to sustainable growth and competitiveness overall, to promote employment and to reduce its regional disparities”.	High alignment. There is a strong coherence between the CSR/challenges and the CPP; most notably in the field of simplifying businesses development and access to finance and in relation to a more efficient absorption of EU funds. All sections of the CPP provide at least implicit references to the 2012 CSR and Annex B clearly shows direct connections between them and the issues addressed under the relevant Thematic Objectives.
LT	CPP refers to CSR and structural challenges in a systematic way. All CSR of 2012 that	Additional challenges identified in the 2012 Country	All cohesion relevant CSR are addressed in CPP. The missing CSR are those concerning the reduction of excessive deficit	Although specific CSR are not explicitly linked to funding priorities described in CPP, the document	High alignment. Overall, the support to CSR plays an important

MS	Systematic reference to CSR	Reference to other key challenges (e.g. Country Reports)	Relevant CSR/structural challenges not sufficiently covered	Role played by CSR/structural challenges in selection of priority/programming	Overall alignment between CSR/structural challenges and CPP
	are relevant for ESI funds are covered in the document either explicitly or implicitly throughout the document. There is only one section that makes no references to CSR (Annex A – arrangements for effective programming and delivery).	Report are implicitly addressed (e.g. to improve the transport infrastructure, particularly rail and connections with Poland and Western Europe; to achieve the target on GHG emissions reduction; to improve the waste management system).	and the reform of state-owned enterprises. For these, national policy instruments are best suited for carrying out the necessary reforms.	remarks that “funding priorities are proposed in line with country-specific challenges”. As highlighted, explicit references to specific CSR are made in the descriptions of funding needs in relation to TO4, TO8, TO9 and TO10.	role in the CPP. The document provides clear indications on how the implementation of TOs will address specific CSR.
LU	The CCP addresses a large range of ESF issues captured by 2012 CSR (Lifelong learning, increase of the rate of employment for youth and older people). Moreover, the CPP expands by addressing the challenge of fighting against poverty (not covered by CSR) and on other untreated challenges,	Additional challenges identified in the 2012 Country Report are also addresses (e.g. low R&D intensity and collaboration between research and industry; insufficient progress towards the 2020 employment target	Only the policy recommendation on reducing GHG emission by increasing taxation on energy products (sub-part of CSR 5 of 2012) is not covered.	Central role. The selection of priorities refer to the 2012 CSR in different cases (e.g. as regards youth and older people employment, education, research and development, SMEs and entrepreneurship).	High alignment. The support to CSR is particularly important in relation to: reduction of CO2 emissions, increase of competitiveness by enhancing the R&D development and applications and diversifying the sectors of the economy; reduction of unemployment for youth (by education) and older

MS	Systematic reference to CSR	Reference to other key challenges (e.g. Country Reports)	Relevant challenges not sufficiently covered	Role played by CSR/structural challenges in selection priority/programming	Overall alignment between CSR/structural challenges and CPP
	particularly the issues of agriculture development, renewable resources (water, forest) and land management.	; low adult participation in lifelong learning.			people (by lifelong learning and contrasting early retirement).
LV	Overall the CPP makes reference to 2012 CSR throughout its sections. The reference to CSR and other challenges is explicit in Annex B of the document.	Additional challenges evidenced in the 2012 Country Report are addressed by the CPP.	All CSR / structural challenges are covered except for those concerning public finance and taxation, banking and liberalisation of services which are not cohesion relevant.	The 'Priorities for funding' section highlights that: 'The CSF funds are one of the most important instruments to tackle the main development challenges for Latvia and to implement the Europe 2020 strategy.' Further on, each of the subsections of Priorities for funding refers to a major structural issue (i.e., innovative and competitive business and research environment, modern infrastructure for growth and jobs, high unemployment, skilled people and inclusive society, energy efficiency and sustainable management of natural resources), and the CSR are linked to the major structural issues covered by	High alignment. The document is built around the CSR and addresses them clearly. The document covers all ESIF policy areas and, while in some places the extent to which it relates to the CSR is rather indirect, overall, the CSR are fully covered. The Main Challenges section describes the important structural issues needed to be addressed in Latvia; the Priorities of Funding section clearly outlines the ways in which the funding would be relevant for tackling the CSR; and Annex B covers all the TOs (except TO5) with

MS	Systematic reference to CSR	Reference to other key challenges (e.g. Country Reports)	Relevant challenges not covered	CSR/structural challenges not sufficiently covered	Role played by CSR/structural challenges in selection of priority/programming	Overall alignment between CSR/structural challenges and CPP
					the funding priorities.	CSR/Country Report challenges and explains how these goals are to be achieved.
MT	All cohesion relevant CSR of 2012 are covered in the document, especially in section 1 “main challenges”, in section 2 “priorities for funding” and explicitly in Annex B “Assessment of funding needs”.	<p>Most of the challenges identified in the 2012 Country Report such as</p> <p>the 2020 recycling target, the inadequacy of the climate policy framework, particularly in relation to sustainable transport,</p> <p>the GHG emissions for the sectors not falling under the Emissions Trading Scheme, are addressed in the document.</p>	The only missing challenge is the 2012 CSR 4.1 concerning the reform of the system of wage bargaining and wage indexation in consultation with social partners, which is indicated as a key challenge in the Country Report and is not mentioned anywhere in the document. However it must be noted that the ESIF can only address this issue very indirectly, e.g. by supporting consultations.	<p>The introductory section of the CPP states that “The CSF Funds [...] serve as an effective means to support the implementation of the Country Specific Recommendations issued in the context of the European Semester”.</p> <p>Section 2 indicates that “each fund should give priority, when relevant, to policy areas addressed in the Country-Specific Recommendations”, and in Annex B there is an explicit connection between CSR/Country Reports, selection of priorities and funding needs in relation to low carbon economy, resource efficiency, sustainable transport, LM and employment, education and training.</p>	<p>High alignment</p> <p>The document sets out the key specific challenges for Malta.</p> <p>Reference to the 2012 CSR/Country Report is often explicit and the coherence between the recommendations adopted in July 2012 and the challenges raised in the CPP (which was published in November 2012) is high.</p>	

MS	Systematic reference to CSR	Reference to other key challenges (e.g. Country Reports)	Relevant challenges not sufficiently covered	Role played by CSR/structural challenges in selection of priority/programming	Overall alignment between CSR/structural challenges and CPP
NL	Overall, the CPP refers systematically to all 2012 CSR throughout the document. In particular in Sections 1, 2, 4 and Annex B of the document.	Other challenges identified in the 2012 Country Report are also covered. These concern: Safeguard continued access to credit for SMEs; the low share of renewable energy in total energy used, also due to some energy- or emissions-intensive sectors and activities being currently subsidised.	The lack of a central State Aid Registry, a challenge mentioned in the 2012 Country Report, is not mentioned anywhere in the CPP.	<p>The introductory section of the CPP states that the "CSF funds [...] serve as an effective means to support the implementation of the CSR".</p> <p>The CPP indicates that "three complementary and mutually reinforcing funding priorities are proposed hereunder in line with CSR challenges": (i) innovation-friendly business environment, (ii) increasing labour market participation through improved employment and social inclusion, and (iii) environment-friendly and resource-efficient economy.</p> <p>These priorities are all related to specific CSR.</p>	<p>High alignment.</p> <p>The CPP sets out the key specific challenges for the Netherlands. The 2012 CSR play a central role in the CPP and most recommendations are mentioned in an explicit way. The CPP defines clearly how it is intended to support CSR and structural reform.</p>
PL	<p>The CPP refers to 2012 CSR and structural challenges in a systematic way.</p> <p>Under Annex B explicit reference to all CSR</p>	Challenges identified in the 2012 Country Report are also addressed. These include: pre-school education;	All CSR / relevant structural challenges are addressed by the CPP.	The CPP indicates that "Each fund should give priority, when relevant, to policy areas addressed in the CSR and in the national reform programmes". The link between CSR/structural	<p>High alignment.</p> <p>The CPP addresses the key specific challenges for Poland. The reference to CSR is very often explicit. When there is</p>

MS	Systematic reference to CSR	Reference to other key challenges (e.g. Country Reports)	Relevant challenges not sufficiently covered	Role played by CSR/structural challenges in selection priority/programming	Overall alignment between CSR/structural challenges and CPP
	can be found, as well as implicit reference to all the structural challenges included in the Country Report. Almost all Thematic Objectives are linked to the CSR/structural challenges. Only one exception is Thematic Objectives 5 (Climate change adaptation and risk management) where there is no explicit nor implicit reference.	development of the information society; the fact that too much municipal waste is still landfilled and more could be done to use cohesion funds to support infrastructure development; atmospheric emissions; underinvestment in urban transport; PA efficiency.		challenges and priorities is clearly seen in the document.	no explicit reference the needs raised in the CPP are very coherent with the CSR/structural challenges.
PT	There was no CSR in 2012; the CPP refers to the MoU and the challenges highlighted in the related EU Decision.	The CPP makes implicit reference to all the cohesion relevant challenges of the 2012 MoU, in several sections of the document.	Only the MoU challenges concerning budget and taxation, the creation and the functioning of SOEs, and the liberalisation of services are not covered in the CPP.	In the "Introduction" of the CPP it is highlighted that the CSF funds serve as an effective means to support the implementation of the recommendations issued in the context of the European Semester and that "The starting point of the Commission's considerations are the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Portuguese Authorities, the European	Medium alignment. The 2011 Council implementing decision on granting Union financial assistance to Portugal recommended very specific policy measures, that were as politically sensitive as also difficult to implement (elimination of excessive rents in the energy sector, reduction

MS	Systematic reference to CSR	Reference to other key challenges (e.g. Country Reports)	Relevant challenges not covered	CSR/structural challenges not sufficiently covered	Role played by CSR/structural challenges in selection of priority/programming	Overall alignment between CSR/structural challenges and CPP
					<p>Commission, ECB and IMF in 2011, the Commission Staff Working Document "Assessment of the 2012 national reform programme and stability programme for Portugal",</p> <p>the national reform programmes and the economic adjustment programme.</p> <p>In chapter "2. Priorities for funding", it is stated that "The CSF Funds are one of the most important instruments to tackle the main development challenges for Portugal and to implement the Europe 2020 strategy.</p>	<p>of unemployment benefits, suspended increase of minimum wage, reduction of the number of municipalities and parishes, territorial reorganization and rationalization of the judicial system and the fiscal administration services). All these recommendations are implicitly referred to in the CPP, and therefore play a central role in this document.</p>
RO	There was no CSR in 2012; the CPP refers to the MoU and the challenges highlighted in the related EU Decision. However, when looking at CSR/structural challenges of the	<p>The structural challenges are found throughout the CPP.</p> <p>Section 1 "Main challenges" mentions directly almost all</p>	<p>The analysis revealed that CPP does not address the CSR/structural challenges referring to regulatory interventions, such as:</p> <p>reforms of the wage setting system allowing wages to better reflect productivity</p>		<p>The priorities for funding are to a large extent addressing directly the structural challenges, except for the needs for regulatory change.</p>	<p>High alignment.</p> <p>The CPP for Romania has a wide coverage in terms of TOs and needs addressed.</p> <p>All thematic objectives except TO 5 Promoting climate change</p>

MS	Systematic reference to CSR	Reference to other key challenges (e.g. Country Reports)	Relevant CSR/structural challenges not sufficiently covered	Role played by CSR/structural challenges in selection priority/programming	Overall alignment between CSR/structural challenges and CPP
	following years and considering the wide scope of the Romanian CPP, it is evident that most reform needs are considered and that CPP plays a central role in addressing CSR.	recommendations referring to investments challenges. The Priorities for funding (Section 2) refer in a more clear manner to More clear links with the funding needs are found in Annex B Assessment of funding needs in relation to thematic objectives.	developments, widen the set of cases for use of fixed-term labour contracts, improve the adequacy of the employment protection legislation and adapt to the flexicurity principles. Recommendations regarding the increase of the EU funds absorption is not specifically mentioned in CPP.		adaptation, risk prevention and management, include funding needs and priorities addressing directly or indirectly structural challenges and post 2012 CSR.
SE	The CPP addresses 2012 CSR systematically, especially those concerning labour market participation of youth and vulnerable groups, improving commercialisation of innovative products etc.	Additional challenges highlighted in the 2012 Country Report are also covered. These include: foster the creation of fast-growing innovative enterprises, reduce the overall poverty and social exclusion risks particularly concerning the elderly, women and	All relevant challenges are covered either by explicitly mentioning CSR or implicitly by addressing the key issues underlying the challenges.	CSR seem to have supported the formulation of the priority of labour market (youth and vulnerable groups) but these topics had been in the focus in any case. In relation to competitiveness and innovation environment CSR may have had some role. The role was more limited in relation to sustainability and resource efficiency.	High alignment. The document addresses key areas of CSR / reform needs. The investment priorities identified contribute to tackle the respective challenges.

MS	Systematic reference to CSR	Reference to other key challenges (e.g. Country Reports)	Relevant challenges not covered	CSR/structural challenges not sufficiently covered	Role played by CSR/structural challenges in selection priority/programming	Overall alignment between CSR/structural challenges and CPP
		children, shift the focus from incineration to recycling, aiming at reducing GHG emissions.				
SI	The CPP addresses all cohesion relevant 2012 CSR challenges in Section 1 'Main challenges', Section 2 on 'Priorities for funding' and Annex B 'Assessment of funding needs'.	Additional challenges highlighted in the 2012 Country Report and not captured by the CSR are also covered. These concern: upgrading the gas infrastructure, which would help Slovenia shift to relatively less carbon-intensive sources, reducing GHG emissions especially, those generated from transport, addressing the gaps in railway infrastructure (linked to delays in	All cohesion relevant CSR/structural challenges are explicitly or implicitly covered in the CPP.		<p>The introductory section of the CPP states that the CSF funds serve as an effective means to support the CSR.</p> <p>The CPP document also indicates that the three funding priorities (Increased labour market participation through employment, education and social inclusion; Competitive economy for growth and jobs in a business-friendly environment and Environment-friendly and resource efficient economy) are proposed in line with the country-specific challenges.</p> <p>The selection of the first funding priority (employment/skills) is closely related to the 2012 CSR. Surprisingly the CSR</p>	<p>High alignment.</p> <p>The CPP document sets out the key specific challenges for Slovenia.</p> <p>There seems to be coherence between the 2012 CSR / Structural Challenges and the initiatives envisaged.</p>

MS	Systematic reference to CSR	Reference to other key challenges (e.g. Country Reports)	Relevant challenges not sufficiently covered	Role played by CSR/structural challenges in selection of priority/programming	Overall alignment between CSR/structural challenges and CPP
		Cohesion Policy investments and insufficient administrative capacity), build waste recycling infrastructure.		on "Increase the employment rate of older workers also by further developing active labour market policies and lifelong learning measures" is not explicitly linked to the TO 8 in the Annex B.	
SK	<p>The CPP refers to the structural challenges in all relevant chapters, subchapters and annexes, both in form of direct citations or indirectly.</p> <p>For example, in Annex C focused on administrative arrangements the document implicitly refers to reforms related to institutional capacity, public administration.</p>	<p>Key challenges identified in the 2012 Country Report are addressed by the CPP. These include: the exclusion of marginalised communities, the low quality of the general and tertiary education system, the impact of parenthood on female employment, the low R&D intensity, the lack of adequate transport infrastructure (in Eastern SK), the need for improving</p>	<p>The document is covering the majority of structural challenges in Slovakia. The structural challenges which are not covered are not relevant to ESIF, mainly recommendation related to sustainability of public finances.</p>	<p>The selection of priorities and funding needs is clearly related to CSR which cover most of the TOs. The CPP states that the starting point is the assessment of Slovakia's progress towards its Europe 2020 targets in its Staff Working Document on the 2012 National Reform Programme and Stability Programme, underpinned by the CSR and country-specific development challenges."</p>	<p>High alignment.</p> <p>The support to CSR plays an important role in the document. The main influence of the Semester is clearly visible in number of new strategic documents which are have been/ are being adopted by the Government (e.g. RIS 3, Transport master plan etc.)</p>

MS	Systematic reference to CSR	Reference to other key challenges (e.g. Country Reports)	Relevant challenges not covered	CSR/structural challenges not sufficiently covered	Role played by CSR/structural challenges in selection of priority/programming	Overall alignment between CSR/structural challenges and CPP
		the business environment and promoting entrepreneurship, the above average energy intensity, limited waste recycling, weaknesses of PA capacity.				
UK	The CPP refers to CSR especially in section 1 (challenges) and section 2 (priorities). While the coverage is more sporadic in the other sections.	In most cases with the exception of housing market reform (2012 CSR 2.1 (16)). The challenges and priority sections cover the main CSR/ Structural reforms the most extensively. The success factors for effective delivery is relatively limited.	There is no direct mention to measures to encourage housing reform.		The priorities tend to reflect the main thrust of the CSR with a small number of exception.	Medium alignment. Most CSR are referred to explicitly and there is the objective of formally incorporating them as relevant. However, the coverage in this respect could be more systematic. Document is relatively weaker in delivery aspects. The CSR are recognised in most cases explicitly but coverage varies throughout the sections of the document and the approach could be more systematic. The CSR themselves are relatively

MS	Systematic reference to CSR	Reference to other key challenges (e.g. Country Reports)	Relevant challenges not sufficiently covered	Role played by CSR/structural challenges in selection priority/programming	Overall alignment between CSR/structural challenges and CPP
					limited in some respects and thus there is no CSR specifically focused on technological development, research and innovation although structural reforms in this area are mentioned in the document. The challenges and priorities sections are the strongest and the success factors for effective delivery the weakest.

Annex Table 2 - Synthesis of the analysis of Partnership Agreements (PA)

MS	Coherence with CPP	Systematic reference to CSR and other key challenges	Cohesion relevant challenges CSR/structural not covered	Role played by CSR in selection of priorities	Overall alignment between PA and CSR
AT	There is a strong overlap between the PA and the CPP. Basically, the PA covers all requests of the CPP, i.e. those not related to the CSR such as innovation, the reduction of CO2 emissions and resource efficiency, as well as those related to the CSR. The PA goes beyond the CPP, by covering also other themes such as SME support (in general as well as in agriculture and fisheries) as well as adaptation to climate change and risk prevention.	<p>The cohesion relevant CSR are covered systematically in Sections 1.1 "analysis of disparities, dev. needs..." and 1.3 "selected TOs" of the PA and mostly cited explicitly.</p> <p>Section 2.5 "administrative capacity" makes implicit references to the challenge in the 2013 Country Report (2.1) regarding the fragmentation of Austrian public administration.</p>	Only a challenge mentioned in the 2013 Country Report (1.1 - 'Reduce the administrative procedures, minimum capital and time required to set up a limited liability company') is not covered. The question though is to what extent ESIF can directly contribute to address this issue.	CSR and structural challenges play a central role as they are referred to either explicitly or indirectly.	<p>High alignment.</p> <p>The PA addresses key structural challenges and provides an overview of support measures, yet no details.</p>
BE	The CPP identified three most pressing challenges (loss of competitiveness and	The relevant CSR/structural challenges are clearly set out (mostly with an explicit reference to 2014 CSR) in	The CSR/challenges which are not covered at all in the PA deal with the following issues:	The PA indicates that the priorities are closely related to the objectives of the Europe 2020	<p>Medium-high alignment.</p> <p>Apart from a few recommendations/challenges which do not</p>

MS	Coherence with CPP	Systematic reference to CSR and other key challenges	Cohesion relevant CSR/structural challenges not covered	Role played by CSR in selection of priorities	Overall alignment between PA and CSR
	low productivity, low employment levels and disparities in educational attainment as well as lack of progress towards reduction targets for GHG emissions) which are all addressed in the PA.	Sections 1.1 and 1.3 of the PA. These 2014 CSR mostly repeat recommendations made in previous years (2012-2013). Section 2.5 on administrative capacity does not include a direct reference to CSR but highlights that one of the actions to be carried out concerns the effective coordination between various authorities and the necessary synergy between the European funds, which is in line with one of the issues raised in the 2013 Country Report.	Long-term care (2013 CSR 2.3 and 2014 CSR 3.3); Inefficient government bureaucracy (2012 CR 1.1); Mobile broadband (2013 CSR 4.2); Independent regulators in the transport sector (2013 CSR 4.4).	Strategy, the CSR and the needs identified in Section 1.1.	seem to be reflected in the PA, the document largely addresses the key CSR/structural challenges identified.
BG	The PA builds upon the CPP and further develops the analysis of the Bulgarian context. The PA discusses in detail the existing challenges, providing statistics and, in some cases, practical recommendation.	The PA covers the majority of CSR extensively and includes a comprehensive overall assessment of the socio-economic environment. On many instances, the CSR are quoted directly, mainly for justifying the choice of Thematic Objectives.	While the PA does mention public procurement, its importance is not highlighted enough. At the same time the Bulgarian public administration continues to demonstrate inability to reform the system, as evidenced by the country's continuing incapacity to meet the specific ex-ante conditionality on public procurement.	The TOs and the strategic funding priorities address the relevant CSR with different intensity. For instance CSR are explicitly mentioned in the TO1 and TO2 but are largely unrelated to TO4 and TO6. No reference to CSR was found in TO5.	Medium alignment. Explicitly or not, the CSR play a relatively central role in the PA, especially when it comes to adopting and tailoring Thematic Objectives and funding priorities. According to the expert, the CSR were rather used as a supporting (or evidence of) instrument rather

MS	Coherence with CPP	Systematic reference to CSR and other key challenges	Cohesion CSR/structural not covered relevant challenges	Role played by CSR in selection of priorities	Overall alignment between PA and CSR
					than a basis for producing the PA.
CZ	<p>To a large extent the treatment of CSR in the PA is coherent with the requests of the CPP. This applies especially for the CSR related to labour market, social affairs, education, or the systems of monitoring and assessment of education and research results. Nevertheless, the CPP puts far more emphasis than the PA on (i) the necessary political steps crucial for improvement of quality in the public administration and its management and (ii) on the issue of missing Public</p>	<p>The PA refers very explicitly to all CSR of 2014 and the majority of challenges is covered systematically. Moreover, the key challenges identified in CSR from the previous years (i.e. 2012 and 2013) are covered as well due to the fact that major challenges remained unsolved.</p>	<p>The only CSR sub-part which is not covered is 2013 CSR 3.2 - Accompany the increase in retirement age with measures promoting employability of older workers and reduction of early exit pathways. In particular, the suggested removal of the public subsidy for the pre-retirement scheme has remained unaddressed. Other CSR are mentioned but addressed marginally: the CSR related to the cost-effectiveness and governance healthcare sector; the CSR related to energy efficiency of the economy (i.e. 2014 CSR 6.2 and 2013 CSR 7.2) which are addressed fragmentally.</p>	<p>The selection of priorities (and hence of funding needs) explicitly refers to relevant CSR (for example, funding priority Development of low-carbon integrated system of public transport linked to the 2014 CSR 6.2; Accessible and high-quality standard services provided by Employment office linked to the 2014 CSR 4.1; Increase in availability of high-quality pre-school childcare facilities, linked to the 2014 CSR 4.3). In other words, all CSR/Country Reports challenges of 2012-2014 are more or less addressed by the PA.</p>	<p>Medium-high alignment. The support of challenges underlined in the CSR is clearly endorsed in the document. Undoubtedly, CSR have been one of the paradigms driving the definition of priorities and of funding needs. Moreover, for the majority of CSR there are strong linkages with the proposed set of funding needs. In addition, the majority of needs covered by the CSR are in line with Europe 2020 Strategy, Common Strategic Framework, the National Reform Programme, the National Strategy of International Competitiveness 2012-2020, the Strategy of Regional Development</p>

MS	Coherence with CPP	Systematic reference to CSR and other key challenges	Cohesion CSR/structural not covered	relevant challenges	Role played by CSR in selection of priorities	Overall alignment between PA and CSR
	Servant Act.					of the Czech Republic 2014-2020. There is no doubt that ESIF funding can significantly contribute to address CSR/challenges. In most cases, the steps necessary to tackle the identified structural challenges are clearly specified.
CY	The PA goes beyond the requests of the CPP and addresses also challenges raised by the MOU which was signed in 2013 between Cyprus and the EU. More specifically, the CPP does not address the institutional capacity of public authorities which is on the contrary targeted by the PA together with other challenges from the 2013 and 2014 MOUs and the 2013 CR (gender	The relevant structural challenges are clearly set out and in most cases with explicit references in Sections 1.1 and 1.3 of the PA. Section 2.5 on the assessment of the needs in terms of administrative capacity, includes reference to a challenge raised in the 2013 MOU and also recurring in 2014, regarding the capacity of the competent authorities to manage programmes.	Enhancement of business environment (2012 CSR 1.1) Reform of the wage-setting framework (2013 MOU 6.1)		The selected priorities are closely related to the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy, the CSR, the MOU and the needs identified in Section 1.1.	High alignment. Apart from a few challenges which are not reflected in the PA, the key CSRs/structural challenges identified are covered.

MS	Coherence with CPP	Systematic reference to CSR and other key challenges	Cohesion CSR/structural not covered relevant challenges	Role played by CSR in selection of priorities	Overall alignment between PA and CSR
	issues, public employment services, expansion of energy networks).				
DE	<p>The PA is coherent with the CPP in the sense that it refers more directly to CSR in the field of labour market potential, social inclusion and educational achievement than in regional competitiveness and environmental issues. Also the absence of the CSR concerning public procurement, promoting domestic demand and tax reductions is common among the two documents.</p>	<p>The PA explicitly refers to the CSR in the introductory paragraphs of sections 1.1 and 1.3.</p> <p>Some cohesion relevant CSR (e.g. education and research, educational achievement of disadvantaged groups, activation and integration of long-term unemployed, energy networks, and public investment) are implicitly addressed. This means that very often the structural reforms of challenges raised in the CSR can be linked to the selected thematic objectives and the main results expected.</p>	<p>One challenge is not covered: 2013 CSR 4.2 and 2014 CSR 4.2 on public procurement</p>	<p>In Germany most of CSR are not ESIF relevant. Only some challenges can be directly targeted (e.g. education and research, educational achievement of disadvantaged groups, activation and integration of long-term unemployed). In the selection of priorities related to those challenges, CSR had a role.</p>	<p>Medium alignment.</p> <p>The overall strategy of the PA covers issues captured by the CSR but the CSR/structural challenges were only one of the elements considered in developing the strategy. An overlap with the CSR is inevitable as they cover important issues like R&D or labour market integration which certainly are also reflected in the national policies.</p> <p>The fact that ESIF are mostly delivered by programmes at Länder level, each one with a different set of priorities, may have an impact on the extent</p>

MS	Coherence with CPP	Systematic reference to CSR and other key challenges	Cohesion relevant CSR/structural challenges not covered	Role played by CSR in selection of priorities	Overall alignment between PA and CSR
					CSR are targeted.
DK	To a large degree, the recommendations in the CPP are mentioned in the PA but not all CSR play a central role in the PA.	Most of the CSR are covered systematically in the PA and mentioned in several subsections. Most of these issues have been on the agenda in Denmark for a while.	All challenges are covered but some of them (stability of housing market, electrified railway lines, more effective public services, regulatory burdens, barriers to market entry, remove restrictions on retail) have in general been regarded as less important issues compared to e.g. productivity improvements, education, employment, and environmental concerns and potential for growth.	CSR seem to play a central role but most of the recommendations mentioned were already high on the agenda and hence we can argue that the would have been addressed anyway.	Medium alignment. The document does generally clearly define how it is intended to support CSR and structural reform and it plays a fairly significant role. However, most of the issues would most likely have been included anyway.
EE	The Position Paper sets out the key specific challenges for Estonia and it does reflect CSR. The focus is on resource efficiency, employment and employability of workers, transport, gender equality and labour market integration of young people, education, RTDI, energy and	Overall, 2012-2013 cohesion relevant CSR/structural challenges are referred to systematically throughout the document, especially in section 1.1 and 1.3, and mostly with explicit references (the Estonian PA was approved in June 2014). In section 1.1 there are also implicit references to the 2012 Country Report (1.1 on waste management, 2.1 on transport infrastructure) and to several CSR (2012 and	Even though the 2012 Country Report is implicitly mentioned, in relation to the infrastructure required for waste management in order to achieve the 2020 recycling targets, very limited discussion on this can be found in the PA. The 2012 and 2013 CSR (5.1) on fiscal sustainability of municipalities, improvement of efficiency of local governments and effective service provision,	The PA is focused on resource efficiency, employment and employability of workers, transport, labour market integration of all people, education, RTDI, energy and institutional capacity. The analysis of development needs in PA is closely linked to those identified in CPP as is the selection of	High alignment. The PA document sets out the key specific challenges for Estonia and as a whole reflects CSR. Mostly there are explicit references to CSR and linkages do exist between different parts of the document. Thus, overall the support to CSR plays a central role in the document and shows

MS	Coherence with CPP	Systematic reference to CSR and other key challenges	Cohesion relevant challenges CSR/structural not covered	Role played by CSR in selection of priorities	Overall alignment between PA and CSR
	institutional capacity. This focus remains the same in the PA.	2013 3.1 on LM relevance of education and training, 2012 and 2013 3.2 on lifelong learning, 2012 and 2013 3.3 on internationalisation of the RTDI system)	and cooperation between municipalities is addressed in a limited and fragmented way.	Thematic Objectives and results expected.	how it is intended to support CSR and structural reforms.
ES	The PA is coherent with the request of the Position Paper, referring to most CSR of 2012 or of following years.	The document refers to most of CSR/Structural challenges explicitly or implicitly. The CSR/structural challenges are thoroughly covered in Section 1.1 "Analysis of disparities" and in Section 1.3 on "Selected thematic objectives".	The only CSR/structural challenges which are not addressed by the PA are those not cohesion relevant, either because they cannot be linked to TOs or because they require legislative/regulatory changes.	In general, the CSR play a central role in the document and in the selection of priorities.	High alignment. The PA highlights the importance of Common Strategic Framework (CSF) funds to support the implementation of the recommendations. In most cases the document clearly defines how it is intended to support CSR and structural reform, but in some cases this can be defined more clearly. For example, when talking about 2013 CSR 6.1 and 2014 CSR 2.2, the document indicates a revision of funding priorities and reallocation of funds for SMEs as well as a support to increase the

MS	Coherence with CPP	Systematic reference to CSR and other key challenges	Cohesion CSR/structural not covered relevant challenges	Role played by CSR in selection of priorities	Overall alignment between PA and CSR
					private financing of innovation and the development of new financing instruments, without specifying further the actions to be taken.
FI	The treatment of key challenges for Finland in the PA is coherent with the position paper. The PA contains a well-structured analysis of the challenges and development potential in section 1.	<p>The CSR concerning the following themes have been referred systematically in the PA, explicitly or implicitly:</p> <p>business environment (2012, 2013 and 2014 CSR 5.1);</p> <p>access to employment of vulnerable groups (2012, 2013 and 2014 CSR 3.1, 3.2, 3.3); early school leaving (2012 Country report 1.1; 2013 Country report 2.1); discrimination (2013 Country report 1.1; 2014 Country report 1.1 and 1.2); sustainability and resource efficiency (2013 and 2014 CSR 5.2; 2013 Country report 3.1; 2014 Country report 2.1 and 3.1); coordination in the implementation of SFs (2012 Country report, 2.1);</p>	<p>Sustainable transport (2014 Country report 3.1) is not covered.</p> <p>The CSR concerning the following themes have no direct role in the PA: public service provision (2012, 2013 and 2014 CSR 2.1); wage setting (2012 CSR 5.2; 2013 CSR 5.3).</p>	The recommendations concerning business environment, access to employment, early school leaving, discrimination, sustainability and resource efficiency and coordination in the implementation are closely related to CRSs.	<p>High alignment.</p> <p>The analysis of main challenges and the specification of reform needs and priorities are based on national and regional level SWOT-analysis which takes into account the earlier programming periods. However, the role of CSR in the definition of the strategy is also clear.</p>

MS	Coherence with CPP	Systematic reference to CSR and other key challenges	Cohesion CSR/structural relevant challenges not covered	Role played by CSR in selection of priorities	Overall alignment between PA and CSR
		Sustainable transport (2014 Country report 3.1) is only covered as a mean to reduce emissions in transport.			
FR	In relation to training issues and social issues there is a large convergence between the treatment of challenges in CSR, the PA and the CPP.	<p>A large part of the relevant CSR/structural challenges are clearly set out (mostly with an explicit reference) in Section 1.1 of the PA (except mainly questions of energy, competitiveness and transport).</p> <p>Section 1.3 includes implicitly some references to CSR on innovation and renewable resources (2013 CSR 3.1; 2014 CR 3.1) but a large part of the CSR are not closely linked to the main ERDF and EARDF issues. This is not the case for the ESF issues as proposed in the CPP, that are well covered by the CSR.</p> <p>Section 2.5 on the assessment of the needs in terms of administrative capacity clearly includes CSR views but it is not clear whether the CSR have actually taken a role in the</p>	<p>2012 CR 2.1; 2013 CR 2.1; 2014 CSR 4.3 Transport and ports (except for outermost regions)</p> <p>2013 CSR 4.3; 2014 CSR 4.2 Liberalisation of networks (railway, energy) and European interconnection of electricity and gas,</p> <p>2012 CSR 2.2; 2013 CSR 3.1 Increase of competition (environment of industry, market of labour)</p> <p>2014 CR 2.1 Application of the polluter pays principle in the agriculture sector</p>	Modest role in the opinion of the expert. The recommendations concerning the themes of business environment, access to employment, school leaving, discrimination, sustainability and resource efficiency are closely related to CRSs.	<p>Medium-low alignment.</p> <p>Very marginal role of CSR, except a common appraisal between the Commission and the French government on the importance of human development and social issues (e.g. fight against poverty, need for helping vulnerable groups, the situation of youth and older people in LM, access to lifelong learning).</p> <p>As a matter of fact, a large number of CSR are not considered because there is a French political choice to pay first attention to increase competitiveness by innovation and not by liberalisation of the</p>

MS	Coherence with CPP	Systematic reference to CSR and other key challenges	Cohesion CSR/structural challenges not covered	Role played by CSR in selection of priorities	Overall alignment between PA and CSR
		national debate. In fact, the French position of diversifying the MAs was exactly the contrary of the European Commission position, especially about ESF. OT11 is only relevant for the outermost regions.			economy.
GR	There is coherence but the PA goes beyond the requests of the CPP and addresses challenges also raised in the 2013 and 2014 MoUs and the Country Reports. In particular the enhancement of institutional capacity of public administration at central and regional level is added.	<p>The relevant structural challenges are clearly set out in Sections 1.1 and 1.3 of the PA. Most of the challenges are recurring in the period 2012-2014.</p> <p>Section 2.5 on the assessment of the needs in terms of administrative capacity, includes references to challenges related to the enhancement of institutional capacity of public administration (2014 MOU 3.1, 2014 MOU 3.3) and the combat of corruption/shadow economy (2014 MOU 2.1).</p>	<p>Improving access to quality education and training (2012 MOU 6.1, 2013 MOU 10.1);</p> <p>Wage-setting framework (2012 MOU 8.1, 2013 MOU 8.1, 2014 MOU 6.1);</p> <p>Measures to achieve Europe 2020 target concerning poverty and social exclusion (2012 CR 1.1.);</p> <p>Access to employment and employability of workers (2013 MOU 7.1);</p> <p>Contrasting discrimination and poverty (2014 CR 3.1)</p>	There is no explicit reference to the selection of priorities and funding being linked to the relevant recommendations made. However, it is mentioned that the PA is compliant with the National Strategic Framework, the National Reform Programme, the New National Development Model for Greece 2021, which was adopted by Eurogroup, the Special recommendations of Eurorgoup, and the targets of the Europe 2020 strategy.	<p>High alignment.</p> <p>Apart from a few recommendations/challenges, the programming document largely addresses the key CSRs/structural challenges identified.</p>
HR	There is a significant overlap	CSR/structural challenges are elaborated in detail and	Two challenges are not addressed:	The PA indicates in several sections that the	<p>High alignment.</p> <p>The CSR play a central</p>

MS	Coherence with CPP	Systematic reference to CSR and other key challenges	Cohesion relevant challenges CSR/structural not covered	Role played by CSR in selection of priorities	Overall alignment between PA and CSR
	between the PA and the CPP. The PA covers all requests of the CPP and beyond, e.g. SME support and the shortcomings of the judicial system, the wage setting system.	quoted throughout the document. Section 1.1 includes several implicit references to the structural challenges raised in the 2013 Country Report and the CSR of 2014, while Section 1.3 refers explicitly to the CSR.	2014 CSR 4.1 on Access to employment and employability of workers 2013 Country Report 5.1 on Gender equality	priorities are closely linked to the objectives of the EU 2020 strategy and CSR. The part regarding TOs makes explicit references to the CSR.	role in the PA. The document clearly defines how it is intended to support CSR and structural reforms.
HU	The main goals of the PA which have strong connections with the CSR are coherent with the priorities for funding of the CPP.	Overall, the CSR are quoted explicitly in section 1.1 and implicitly in section 1.3 of the PA where the goals of each TO are linked to the CSR.	All cohesion relevant CSR are covered (implicitly or explicitly) in the document. However, there are some structural challenges which are not captured by the CSR and which need to be considered. One main challenge in connection with education is to avoid early specialization in the school system.	The Main National Development Priorities are referring to the TOs and the CSR. There is a clear correlation between the CSR, the TO's and the Main National Development Priorities.	High alignment. In the opinion of the expert, the CSR play a central role in the document. In subsection 1.1.3 the PA introduces the connections between the Main National Development Priorities, the TO for the period 2014-2020, and the relevant CSR. In Section 1.3 of the PA, most of the relevant CSR from 2014 have a clear link with the Thematic Objectives.
IE	The treatment of structural	The CSR are covered systematically throughout	All challenges addressed with the exception of reform in	Overall, support to CSR/structural challenges	High alignment.

MS	Coherence with CPP	Systematic reference to CSR and other key challenges	Cohesion relevant CSR/structural challenges not covered	Role played by CSR in selection of priorities	Overall alignment between PA and CSR
	challenges in the PA is coherent with the requests in the Position Paper.	the sections of the document. The coverage is extensive and a considerable detail is provided.	the housing market, the monitoring of bank reform and the introduction of measures to increase competition in legal and other service sectors.	plays a central role in the programme documentation and the Partnership Agreement document defines how it is intended to support structural reform.	The document addresses key areas of CSR/structural challenges. The initiatives envisaged contribute to tackle the respective challenges.
IT	The PA is highly consistent with the indications provided in the CPP.	All the CSR are addressed explicitly or implicitly throughout the PA except for those related to wage settings, shifting the tax burdens away from labour and state-aid procedures. Explicit references to CSR are especially provided under TO7, TO9 and TO11 in section 1.3. Section 2.5 confirms the overall respect of the CSR related to administrative capacity and the description of the actions aimed at ensuring a better management of EU funds and enhancing the efficiency of public procurement, contains indirect but clear reference to 2014 CSR 3.1 and 2014 CSR 7.1.	The PA addresses all the CSR more relevant for the ESIF leaving out those involving mostly regulatory actions: 2014 CSR 2.1 (labour tax wedge) 2014 CSR 4.1 (non-bank access to finance) 2013 CSR 5.1 and 2012 CSR 5.3 (shift tax burden from labour to consumption) 2013 CSR 4.1 and 2012 CSR 4.3 (labour market and wage setting reforms) 2012 Country Report 4.1 (state aid procedures).	The CSR play a relevant role in the justification for the selection of priorities along with other strategic documents and are (at least implicitly) considered throughout the PA. The PA and the choice of priorities is overall coherent with the indications emerging from the council recommendations and the Country Reports.	High alignment. The PA is highly coherent with the CSR and structural challenges identified in the country reports. There are implicit references throughout the relevant sections of the PA and for all the TOs for which a CSR/challenge can be linked to.
LT	The PA provides a	Systematic references to CSR	The only CSR not addressed	There is evidence that	High alignment.

MS	Coherence with CPP	Systematic reference to CSR and other key challenges	Cohesion CSR/structural challenges not covered	Role played by CSR in selection of priorities	Overall alignment between PA and CSR
	more comprehensive treatment of CSR and structural challenges than requested in CPP. In the CPP assessment of funding needs, CSR and/or structural challenges were covered in relation to six TO (TO4, TO6, TO7, TO8, TO9 and TO10). In the PA, CSR are covered in the descriptions of nine TOs, those mentioned in the CPP and three additional ones (TO1, TO5 and TO11). Moreover, CSR 5.1 of 2012-2013-2014 on state owned enterprises is covered in the PA while it was not addressed in CPP.	and structural challenges can be found in the PA. Explicit references to CSR can be found in Sections 1.1 and 1.3.	in the document is a recursive CSR 1.1 on excessive deficit but this is not directly relevant to cohesion and national policy instruments are best suited to address this recommendation.	some of the actions described in Section 1.3. of the PA were included in the document in response to CSR. There are numerous explicit references to CSR of 2014 in this section of the document. Explicit references are made in relation to TO7, TO8, TO10 and TO11.	Overall, the support to CSR plays an important role in the PA. The document provides clear indications on how the implementation of TOs will address specific CSR.
LU	There is a strong coherence between	Most of the cohesion relevant CSR/structural challenges are	The recommendations not	There is a strong link between the CSR and	High alignment.

MS	Coherence with CPP	Systematic reference to CSR and other key challenges	Cohesion relevant CSR/structural challenges not covered	Role played by CSR in selection of priorities	Overall alignment between PA and CSR
	<p>the PA and the CPP in terms of challenges addressed, with an emphasis on:</p> <p>R&D, diversification of the economy, development of SMEs; Reduction of CO2 emissions; Increase of youth and older people education and employment (and migrants, especially in the PA)</p>	<p>clearly set out (mostly with an explicit reference) in Section 1.1 of the PA (except increase of taxes).</p> <p>Section 1.3 includes some targeted CSR references to: R&D and innovation, especially targeting SMEs and the diversification of the economy; reduction of CO2; increase of education and employment of youth and older people.</p>	<p>covered are:</p> <p>2012 CSR 5.2 and 2013 CSR 6.2 (tax on oil products for transports)</p> <p>2014 CR1.1 (tax for environment)</p> <p>2012 CSR 3.1 and 2013 CSR 4.1 and CSR 2014 3.1 (wage setting according to productivity gains)</p> <p>2013 CSR 3.1 and 2014 CSR 2.1 (management of health expenses)</p>	<p>the selection of priorities and funding needs. The 3 dimensions of coherence (R&D, diversification, SME development; Reduction of CO2 emissions; Increase of youth and older people education and employment) between CPP and PA are used as a guide for the choice of the TOs and the targets.</p>	<p>The CSR appear to have played a major role in the document. only the macroeconomic or tax reforms are not addressed.</p>
LV	<p>Both documents cover the same general issues and structural challenges, as well as covering the same TOs. They both first describe the economic background and in a later section directly</p>	<p>In section 1.1, all cohesion relevant recommendations are covered in an implicit manner: structural issues that are prominent in the Latvian economy are discussed. Section 1.3 expands by explicitly referring to the recommendations and explaining how the reforms</p>	<p>All covered except those concerning public finance and taxation and other macroeconomic reforms.</p> <p>(i) strengthening the budgetary strategy;</p> <p>(ii) implementing state-owned enterprise management reform; (iii) institutional and financial</p>	<p>the PA indicates that the funding priorities are aligned with the CSR mentioned in the document, as well as with the Europe 2020 goals.</p> <p>For example, in section 1.3 (para. 310), where the PA directly refers to the necessity to increase</p>	<p>High alignment.</p> <p>The document is aligned with the cohesion relevant CSR of 2014 and explains in great depth how the recommendations will be implemented by intended reforms/actions. It is clearly shown how the</p>

MS	Coherence with CPP	Systematic reference to CSR and other key challenges	Cohesion CSR/structural not covered	relevant challenges	Role played by CSR in selection of priorities	Overall alignment between PA and CSR
	relate CSR/Country Reports' challenges to the issues previously outlined.	and plans to be implemented are expected to help address the issues. For example, 2013 CSR 4.1 'Tackle high rates of poverty by reforming social assistance for better coverage, by improving benefit adequacy and activation measures for benefit recipients. Reinforce the delivery mechanisms to effectively reduce child poverty' is quoted followed by a discussion of proposed measures aimed at addressing these issues.	independence of the Competition Council.		R&D in Latvia, it is clearly outlined how the funding priorities will help to address the recommendation made; the PA reads: 'support in big cities (except Riga) will be implemented using ITI approach, while the support in other territories will be complemented with CLLD measures within the framework of EAFRD and EMFF. Even though other sections of the same paragraph can be less clear on the approach undertaken to solve the issues, the general idea of how a recommendation would be fulfilled is conveyed by the paragraph as a whole.	intended reforms coincide with the recommendations made and will help to address these issues.
MT	The structural reforms needs identified in the CPP, which play a key role in the effective and	Sections 1.1 and 1.3 of the PA contain explicit references to all the relevant CSR/structural challenges and the description of the strategy clearly identify them	All cohesion relevant challenges are covered.		The PA indicates that the priorities are closely related to the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy, the CSR and the needs identified in	High alignment. The programming document largely addresses the key CSR proposed and the

MS	Coherence with CPP	Systematic reference to CSR and other key challenges	Cohesion CSR/structural relevant challenges not covered	Role played by CSR in selection of priorities	Overall alignment between PA and CSR
	efficient use of EU Funds, are clearly linked to CSR and PA challenges.	as priorities to be addressed. Section 2.5 on the assessment of the needs in terms of administrative capacity does not include a direct reference to relevant CSR but the only CSR (2014 5.1 – public procurement) strictly related to administrative capacity is included in the issues to be tackled.		Section 1.1.	structural challenges identified.
NL	The CPP identified three most pressing challenges (innovation-friendly business environment, LM participation and employability, resource efficiency) which are all addressed in the PA document.	The relevant CSR/structural challenges are generally clearly and explicitly set out in Sections 1.1 and 1.3 of the PA. Section 2.5 on the assessment of the needs in terms of administrative capacity does not include a direct reference to CSR/structural challenges.	The recommendations/challenges which are not covered in the PA deal with the following issues: Health and long-term care (2014 CSR 3.3 + 2013 CSR 3.3 + 2012 CSR 2.2); Wage setting (2014 CSR 4.2); Congestion / Transport (2014 CR 4.1) Institutional capacity, public administration and justice systems (2014 CR 6.1 + 2013 CR 2.1 + 2012 CR 3.1).	CSR play an important role in the expert's opinion as the PA indicates that the priorities are closely related to the proposed recommendations and the needs identified in Section 1.1.	High alignment. Apart from the recommendations/challenges which do not seem to be reflected in the PA (see the previous point), the programming document largely addresses the key CSR proposed and the structural challenges identified.
PL	All CSR/structural challenges	The PA often refers to the relevant CSR/structural	The recommendations/challenges	According to the expert CSR play a central role	High alignment.

MS	Coherence with CPP	Systematic reference to CSR and other key challenges	Cohesion CSR/structural challenges not covered	Role played by CSR in selection of priorities	Overall alignment between PA and CSR
	mentioned explicitly or implicitly in the CPP can be found in sections 1.1 or 1.3 of PA.	challenges in sections 1.1 and 1.3. These references are predominantly explicit. Under section 1.3 only one thematic objective (TO3) has no connection to CSR/structural challenges. Section 2.5 on the assessment of the needs in terms of administrative capacity does not include any reference to CSR/structural challenges.	which are not covered at all in the PA deal with: "contrast labour market segmentation by stepping up efforts to ensure a better transition from fixed-term to permanent employment and by reducing the excessive use of civil law contracts" (2013 CSR 3.2 and 2014 CSR 2.3). "enhancing structured and formalised cooperation between higher education institutions and enterprises, raising the qualifications of teachers..." (2013 country report 2.1). "Low environmental taxation; only country with no CO2 component in car taxation" (2014 Country report 1.1).	in the strategy. The PA indicates that the priorities are closely related to the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy, the CSR and the needs identified in Section 1.1.	Apart from three recommendations/challenges which do not seem to be reflected in the PA, the programming document largely addresses the key CSR/structural challenges identified by the European Commission.
PT	In terms of strategic alignment, the thematic structure adopted in the PA focused essentially on the three major	The PA only has a few explicit references to CSR/structural challenges, all regarding the policy area "Institutional capacity, public administration and justice	Apart from the need to strengthen active labour market policies, in general some recommendations related with reforms of the labour market (e.g. 2014	The document states that the programming of the 2014-2020 ESIF was structured in the PA in order to intervene in critical domains in which	Medium alignment. Although there are only a few explicit references to CSR in the document, it implicitly covers a large part of

MS	Coherence with CPP	Systematic reference to CSR and other key challenges	Cohesion CSR/structural relevant challenges not covered	Role played by CSR in selection of priorities	Overall alignment between PA and CSR
	<p>priorities for funding defined in the CPP, namely (1) competitiveness and internationalization of the economy, employment and social inclusion, (2) education and training, (3) resource use efficiency and sustainability. It also adopted two transversal domains related with the reform of public administration and the territorial approach to the interventions.</p>	<p>systems”, namely the recommendations to reduce the number of local government entities, to reform and improve the functioning of the judicial system.</p> <p>However, there are plenty of implicit references to most of the CSR, in particular to the ones presented in 2013 and 2014. These references abound throughout Section 1.1, but are also present in Section 1.3 for half of the thematic objectives.</p>	<p>CSR 3.1 on employment protection and LM segmentation) and wage setting (e.g. 2014 CSR 2.1) are not clearly stated in the document.</p> <p>Also regarding the transport policy area, the references to 2014 CSR 6.2 are vague and do not cover issues like ports sector reforms, ports and metropolitan transport concessions, financial sustainability and management independence of state owned transport sector companies, and increased efficiency and competition in the railways sector.</p> <p>Also, there are no references to the need to eliminate payment delays in the public sector (2014 CSR 7.2).</p>	<p>the implementation of the funds would allow a convergence between the Europe 2020 goals and the national strategic objectives laid out in the National Reforms Plan, in a context of severe restrictions associated with the – then ongoing – procedure of correction of the macroeconomic imbalance.</p>	<p>the CSR presented in 2012, 2013 and 2014. Nevertheless, the document does not highlight a clear relation between the PA and support of the ESI Funds to the CSR and structural reforms, so this does not come evident as a central issue.</p>
RO	<p>The PA is coherent with the funding needs indicated in the CPP by thematic objective. The PA details to a greater</p>	<p>The PA refers to all cohesion relevant CSR/structural challenges, i.e. those which imply investments.</p> <p>Sections 1.1 and 1.3 of the</p>	<p>Only the regulatory CSR/structural challenges are not covered by the PA:</p> <p>2012 MoU 2.1. phase out regulated prices in electricity</p>	<p>The PA indicates that the funding priorities are closely related to the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy, the CSR and the needs identified</p>	<p>High alignment.</p> <p>The PA addresses the relevant CSR proposed by the European Commission and the</p>

MS	Coherence with CPP	Systematic reference to CSR and other key challenges	Cohesion relevant CSR/structural challenges not covered	Role played by CSR in selection of priorities	Overall alignment between PA and CSR
	extent the challenges and the funding priorities and needs, addressing in a more clear manner the CSR/structural challenges.	PA often include explicit references to the CSR challenges. Section 2.5 on the assessment of the needs in terms of administrative capacity include direct references to a number of structural challenges such as: weaknesses in the management and control systems, public procurement, improve efficiency and effectiveness, enhancing quality of the public expenditure, use of impact assessments, coordination among institutions responsible for funds management.	and gas; 2012 MoU 7.1 and 2014 CSR 2.3 regarding employment protection legislation, adoption of the flexicurity principles and reduction of tax burden for low and middle income earners; 2012 MoU 5.1 and 2014 CSR 4.3 regarding the reform of the wage setting system and transparency of the minimum wage setting.	in Section 1.1.	structural challenges identified. These played a major role in the programming process, and in the development of the document. The CSR and the CPP set the foundations for the design of the document.
SE	The treatment of structural challenges is coherent in the PA and the CPP. The PA contains a structured analysis of the challenges and development potential (Section 1).	The CSR concerning the themes of competitiveness, SMEs, innovation, labour market and social exclusion, sustainability and resource efficiency, upgrading of the rail system have been referred implicitly but systematically in the PA.	The CSR concerning housing and other social infrastructures as well as those on the effects of reduced VAT on job creation (2012 CSR 3.2, 2013 CSR 4.3) have no role in the PA. Planning and land policy in connection to housing are problems basically limited to Stockholm and other major	Central role of the recommendations in relation to the themes of competitiveness, SMEs, innovation, labour market and social exclusion, sustainability and resource efficiency.	High alignment. The analysis of main challenges and the specification of reform needs and priorities are based on a long-run research and political discussion whose background are the experiences of the earlier programme

MS	Coherence with CPP	Systematic reference to CSR and other key challenges	Cohesion CSR/structural relevant challenges not covered	Role played by CSR in selection of priorities	Overall alignment between PA and CSR
			city regions. The CSR concern mainly the reforms in legislation and institutional arrangements which are outside the scope of EU funding.		periods and an analysis of the new challenges. There has clearly been a lot of interaction between the CSR process and the preparation of the CPP and PA.
SI	The CPP identified three most pressing challenges (low labour market participation, burdensome business environment hindering competitiveness on domestic and export markets, inefficient use of resources) which are all addressed in the PA.	The relevant CSR/structural challenges are generally clearly set out (mostly with an explicit reference) in Sections 1.1 and 1.3 of the PA. Section 2.5 on the assessment of the needs in terms of administrative capacity does not include an explicit reference to CSR but highlights that one of the actions to be carried out concerns the need for adequate administrative capacity (especially in the field of public procurement and environmental impact assessments), which is in line with one of the issues raised in the 2014 Country Report	Apart from the CSR/structural challenges that are not cohesion relevant, the only recommendation not adequately covered concerns energy infrastructure (2012 CR 1.1)	The PA indicates that the priorities are closely related to the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy; Table 6 (Selected thematic objectives and a summary of the main results expected for each Cohesion Policy Structural Fund) clearly demonstrates the relation between the CSR, the needs identified in Section 1.1. and selected thematic priorities.	High alignment. The PA document largely addresses the key CSR proposed by the European Commission and the structural challenges identified.

MS	Coherence with CPP	Systematic reference to CSR and other key challenges	Cohesion relevant CSR/structural challenges not covered	Role played by CSR in selection of priorities	Overall alignment between PA and CSR
		(3.1).			
SK	The selection of funding priorities is in line with the recommendation made in the Position Paper. There is a clear reference to the Position paper regarding the institutional capacity of public authorities (chapter 1.3.5.1.2). The overlap is particularly evident in relation to labour market measures, integration of marginalised communities, energy efficiency, education and vocational training, research and development, institutional capacity of public authorities etc.	The majority of selected thematic objectives and expected results outlined in chapter 1.3 of the PA refers explicitly to CSR and other structural challenges identified. The reference to structural challenges exists also in part in subchapter 1.1. The CSR focused on institutional capacity are incorporated in the subchapter 2.5. Especially in the field of corruption and fraud, transparent financing of political parties, ESIF implementation and public procurement.	The document covers all cohesion relevant CSR while those linked to sustainability of public finance (excessive deficit reduction) and taxation, pension system, cost-effectiveness of healthcare are not addressed.	According to the expert, the CSR and other structural challenges identified in the Country Reports play an important role in the definition of the strategy.	High alignment. The document clearly defines the measures which are necessary to achieve the objectives linked to CSR (mainly in subchapters 1.1 and 1.3). Each chapter includes a subchapter focused on Thematic Objectives and clearly analyses the present state, funding needs and expected results.
UK	The evidence suggests that there	The CSR and the other structural challenges tend to	Most challenges are addressed apart from those	According to the expert the CSR play an	High alignment. There is an extensive

MS	Coherence with CPP	Systematic reference to CSR and other key challenges	Cohesion CSR/structural relevant challenges not covered	Role played by CSR in selection of priorities	Overall alignment between PA and CSR
	is extensive coherence between the treatment of CSR/structural challenges in the PA and the requests made in the Position Paper.	be discussed throughout the document with extensive discussion in the section 1.1. on Disparities, challenges, objectives and the results expected.	concerning housing and mortgage lending and banks	important role since the priorities are largely in line with the cohesion relevant recommendations made.	coverage of CSR proposed and other challenges identified.

Annex Table 3 - Key findings from the analysis of Operational Programmes

Member State	Coverage of CSR/structural challenges in OPs	Assessment of how ESIF implementation was influenced	Obstacles to use of ESIF
AT	All cohesion relevant CSRs are addressed either implicitly or explicitly in the Austrian programming documents. The most important CSRs for programming are those concerning gender equality, labour market participation of women, elderly and people with migration background as well as the improvement of educational outcomes.	The desk analysis and the interviews highlighted that the CSRs/structural challenges influenced significantly the programming and implementation of ESI Funds in Austria, at least as far as ESF is concerned. As most CSRs referred to challenges in the labour markets, gender equality and education, it was especially the Austrian ESF OP that was affected most by the European Semester. The CSRs/structural challenges are less relevant for the other funds and only some of them are addressed, implicitly, in the respective programmes.	No particular obstacles emerged, apart from the mentioned issues of limited ESI resources in Austria. Other constraints may include: human resources' bottlenecks in the administration of the OPs and projects.
BE	The various programming documents generally address the most relevant CSR/structural challenges. The ESF OPs cover the recommendations related to employment, education/training and inclusion while the remaining programmes (three ERDF OPs, one EMFF OP and one EAFRD OP were analysed) mostly refer to the recommendation on the reduction of GHG emissions.	In the four ESF OPs, programming was significantly influenced by the Semester as the selection of the various priorities was largely based on the CSR whereas in the five other programmes the role of the CSR seem to be more marginal.	The fact that competences are shared between various levels of government; The mismatch between annual CSR and multiannual ESIF planning; The fact that all CSR are provided at the level of the country and none at the level of the regions.
BG	Having relatively high alignment with the CPP and the PA, it is somehow natural that CSRs/structural challenges are adequately supported in the Bulgarian OPs. Nonetheless, it should be noted that this support varies depending on the type of OP and its	It is clear from the overall assessment that ESIF programming has been influenced by the CSRs/structural challenges. In fact, the main recommendations and directions provided in the strategic documents (e.g. the PA and the CPP) is integrated in the texts of the OPs. In most of the	No specific obstacle to the use of ESI Funds for pursuing structural challenges was mentioned in the interviews.

Member State	Coverage of CSR/structural challenges in OPs	Assessment of how ESIF implementation was influenced	Obstacles to use of ESIF
	<p>objectives. Where relevant, CSRs were properly analysed and supported in all of the OPs but most comprehensively in OPGG, OPIC and OPRG.</p> <p>The different Operational Programmes target CSRs through different funds – ERDF, ESF, EAFRD, and EMFF, with ESF and ERDF being significantly more aligned with the available CSRs for Bulgaria.</p>	<p>OPs there is very high alignment between the CSRs and the ESIF. Such would be the case, for example, with 2012 CSR 5.1 (absorption of EU funds) in OPGG, 2013 CSR 7.3 (energy networks) in OPIC, 2014 CSR 2.2 (healthcare), 2014 CSR 4.1 (reform of vocational and higher education) in OPRG, and 2012 CSR 3.3 (Roma integration strategy) in OPHR.</p>	
CZ	<p>The absolute majority of CSRs and structural challenges raised in Country Reports have been addressed at least partially in the analysed programming documents, depending on specific thematic orientation of individual operational programmes and particular country specific recommendations. The cohesion relevant CSRs/structural challenges can be divided into three groups according to their treatment in programming documents. First, the recommendations related to an increase of availability of childcare facilities and services are addressed thoroughly by several OPs. Second, the challenges related to structural reforms in education, research evaluation and in the sphere of public administration are tackled explicitly and in a great detail and the ESIF support can be assessed as important. The third group of CSRs tackled in the OPs are those related to an increase in cost-efficiency of the healthcare sector and of energy efficiency of the national</p>	<p>In most cases, the policy recommendations played the role of important standpoints for the definition of developmental problems and funding needs and priorities. The high alignment might be attributed also to internal needs of the Czech Republic as the majority of recommendations are in line with the desirable structural changes reflected in domestic but also in European strategic documents. In addition, the identified close interconnection of CSRs/structural challenges with ESIF programming documents can be also attributed to the fact that most of the structural recommendations are in line with the respective ex-ante conditionalities (e.g. on efficiency and transparency of public administration, namely the Public Service Act; on social inclusion of Roma people; on performance-based funding of research institutions etc.).</p>	<p>Two major obstacles for using the ESIF for addressing the challenges underlying CSRs have been identified. First, the interviewees mentioned the incoherence between the programming period spanning 7 years and the annual publication of CSRs makes it very difficult to address properly the CSRs, which might emerge after the approval of the relevant OP. Current design of OPs (including the N+3 rule) as well as the lengthy procedure of OP amendment limits significantly the space for incorporation of newly formulated CSRs.</p> <p>Second, the majority of CSRs do not only require investments but also regulatory intervention</p>

Member State	Coverage of CSR/structural challenges in OPs	Assessment of how ESIF implementation was influenced	Obstacles to use of ESIF
	economy, however given the complex nature of these challenges, the ESIF support can contribute only partially to address them.		<p>and the political support of key decision-makers. The ability of the authorities that are responsible for implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy to influence the political process is only limited.</p> <p>The fact that addressing of CSRs might in certain cases actually mean reallocation of resources from other activities and thus might lead to various tensions among stakeholders concerned is another potentially relevant obstacle for using ESIF for addressing CSRs, even though a rather minor one.</p>
CY	Key CSRs/challenges addressed by the majority of OPs were the challenge related to the integration of young people to the labour market and the challenge associated with the introduction of RTDI measures. Challenges on Energy networks (2015 MOU 8.1 and Related challenges 2014 MOU 8.1 and 2013 MOU 9.1) and Gender equality (2013 CR 1.1) are referenced in 2 out of 4 OPs. ERDF OP addresses most of the challenges, except for 2012 CSR 5.1 on the enhancement of skills of the workforce, 2013 MOU 6.1 on wage setting, 2012 CR 1.1 on the enhancement of the business environment and the acceleration of	<p>ESI Funds programming was significantly influenced by the Semester. The design of the ERDF and ESF OPs reflected the CSRs/challenges which emerged from the MOUs.</p> <p>There is an indirect linkage with EAFRD and EMFF. The former places emphasis on introducing innovative technologies to agricultural production, the promotion of energy efficiency. EMFF places emphasis on business innovation and skills enhancement.</p>	There are no specific obstacles to the use of ESI Funds for pursuing the recommendations.

Member State	Coverage of CSR/structural challenges in OPs	Assessment of how ESIF implementation was influenced	Obstacles to use of ESIF
	the process of enforcing contracts and 2013 MOU 7.1 on the evaluation of public employment schemes. The ESF OP adequately supports all related challenges. EMFF and EAFRD support few of the challenges indirectly.		
DE	Programme documents address the relevant CSR/structural challenges. They are taken into account in strategic planning and programming on the national level as the Partnership Agreement shows. The OPs react to the CSR and to the structural challenges emerging from Country Reports. Almost all CSR/structural challenges are covered in the programming documents. In many cases, they reflect the priorities that were already set at the national policy level (e.g. reducing long-term unemployment).	<p>Overall, CSR/structural challenges are a point of reference for programming but not an exclusive one. Given that not all CSR/structural challenges require the use of ESI Funds and that the national budget for addressing structural issues in Germany is substantially larger than the EU resources, OPs are only one of the several "instruments" that contribute to tackle CSR/structural challenges.</p> <p>As programming is mostly managed at regional (Länder) level, the specific situation and policy priorities in the respective Land play an important role. The influence of these priorities on the programming process is stronger than the influence of CSR.</p>	<p>The nature of most CSR/structural challenges which is regulatory and can be addressed by funds only to a limited extent.</p> <p>The distribution of competences between the different administrative levels (e.g. some recommendations concern policy areas that go beyond the sphere of intervention of Länders which manage the bulk of ESIF in Germany).</p> <p>The critical mass of ESI Fund resources made available in a certain context can be an important constraint for what is actually feasible.</p>
DK	For both the ERDF and the ESF, the alignment between CSRs/structural challenges and the OPs is significant. The ESI Funds are relatively small in Denmark in comparison to most other EU countries and compared with other growth oriented policy initiatives in Denmark. They	On the basis of the desk analysis and the interviews, the national expert concluded that the implementation of ESI Funds was influenced by CSR/structural challenges in relation to supply of labour, higher attainment rates especially in vocational training, lower drop-out rates, more	The main obstacles to use ESI Funds for pursuing structural reforms in Denmark include: their limited financial size; the fact that they are not considered as suitable tools to

Member State	Coverage of CSR/structural challenges in OPs	Assessment of how ESIF implementation was influenced	Obstacles to use of ESIF
	<p>are therefore not used to pursue large structural reforms.</p> <p>The ESF is mainly focused on CSRs concerning education, labour supply, employment of marginalised groups and productivity. These are addressed consistently and the ESF is regarded as an appropriate tool to address these challenges.</p> <p>The ERDF is mainly focused on CSRs/structural challenges which concern productivity gains and energy efficiency (and SMEs/entrepreneurship and innovation).</p> <p>ERDF mainly target the energy/environment CSRs and to some extent vocational education. EMFF only address CSRs to a very little extent. The mentioning of the importance of transforming the fishing industry to a sustainable and climate friendly industry is the only part that relate back to CSRs.</p>	<p>apprenticeships, inclusion of marginalised groups in the labour market, efficient shift to a low carbon economy and productivity challenges. The need to increase productivity gains is probably seen as the biggest overall challenge for Denmark by the Danish Government.</p>	<p>address several CSRs characterised by a regulatory nature or which cannot be directly linked to TOs.</p>
EE	<p>The OP for Cohesion Policy Funding 2014-2020 (covering both the ERDF and the ESF) addresses many CSRs/structural challenges and the initiatives proposed contribute to tackle the respective challenges. The focus is on resources efficiency, employment and employability of workers, transport, labour market integration of all people, education, RTDI, energy and institutional capacity. The EAFRD and the EMFF OPs address certain elements of the CSRs/structural challenges.</p>	<p>The starting bases for the ESI Funds programming were the Position Paper, the Partnership Agreement, the National Reform Programmes (2012, 2013 and 2014) and the 2012, as well as 2013 and 2014 CSRs. The desk analysis of the OPs, the mobilised IPs and Specific Objectives have highlighted that the ESI Funds programming was clearly influenced by the CSRs.</p>	<p>No major obstacles were highlighted regarding the effective use of ESI Funds for structural reforms.</p>

Member State	Coverage of CSR/structural challenges in OPs	Assessment of how ESIF implementation was influenced	Obstacles to use of ESIF
ES	<p>The CSRs have been considered by explicitly referring to them or by taking them into account implicitly (i.e. without explicitly mentioning the recommendations but incorporating initiatives that contribute to achieve them) when designing the lines of actions and priorities in the OPs. The alignment between CSR/structural challenges is especially significant in the case of the ESF OPs which cover all relevant 2014 CSR (3.1, 3.2; 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 5.1); these address topics that the ESF has been dealing with for many years; what has changed in the current ESF OPs is the order of priorities due to the CSRs, the ESF is devoted entirely to pursue the CSRs.</p> <p>The CSRs less supported by the OPs are those related to national responsibilities such as the national RTDI strategy (2014 CSR 6.2, CSR 7.1) or the establishment of an independent body to assess major transport infrastructures (2014 CSR 7.2).</p>	<p>The CSRs/structural challenges have steered the programming and the implementation of the ESI Funds in Spain.</p> <p>The starting bases for the ESI Funds programming were the Position Paper, the Partnership Agreement, the National Reform Programmes (2012, 2013 and 2014) and the 2012, as well as 2013 and 2014 CSRs. The ESI Funds programming was hence clearly influenced by the CSRs, apart from those of legislative or regulatory nature. In particular the ESF is devoted entirely to pursue the CSRs. In fact, the ESF OPs are designed to cover the CSRs related to social inclusion and employability for vulnerable groups, fight against youth unemployment, promotion of gender equality, adaptation of qualification to labour market needs, and educational/training needs.</p>	<p>No major obstacle was highlighted apart from the nature itself of CSR, namely structural challenges that imply regulatory changes are more difficult to be addressed.</p>
FI	<p>In Finland, there is one common ERDF and ESF programme for the Mainland Finland and another for Åland (ERDF and ESF). The specification of priorities is based on both CSRs and national and regional analysis of challenges and development needs, as well as on the experiences of the earlier programme periods. The ESF parts in the OP are closely related with the respective CSRs on LM</p>	<p>In the OP of Mainland Finland the chosen thematic objectives which will be pursued by means of the ESF and the specific objectives are closely related to the relevant CSRs. The 2012-2014 CSRs concerning the themes of labour market, education and social inclusion have followed the lines of earlier years and there was no significant change in the implementation.</p> <p>The CSRs concerning ERDF themes have</p>	<p>The analysis and the interviews did not highlight any specific obstacle which prevents from using ESI funds to address structural challenges in Finland. All programme documents are based on the principle that ESI funds should be used for pursuing structural reforms</p>

Member State	Coverage of CSR/structural challenges in OPs	Assessment of how ESIF implementation was influenced	Obstacles to use of ESIF
	<p>integration of young people, access to employment, social exclusion etc. while the connection between the ERDF parts and the CSR/structural challenges is weaker because most of the respective CSRs are general, for example the recommendation concerning the diversification of the business structure.</p> <p>The EAFRD and EMFF programmes respond to the CSRs related to competitiveness of SMEs and resource efficiency but also to employment.</p>	<p>influenced the choice of thematic objectives while the selection of the specific objectives has been based first of all on the analysis of regional challenges, especially with respect to the objectives of SME competitiveness and innovation promotion.</p>	<p>both at national and regional level.</p> <p>However, the changed economic environment, especially the prolonged economic downturn, may affect the implementation to some extent. For example, the declining employment in most regions makes it difficult to tackle the challenges which are concerned with training and supplementary education aimed at increasing employment of youths and vulnerable groups.</p>
FR	<p>The main CSRs/structural challenges that were targeted in the programming documents are those aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting economic development through innovation and technology transfer; • Supporting the development of human resources and skills, by giving access to training and employment to young people, older people, vulnerable groups, and paying attention to gender equality, career guidance, life-long learning, preventing school dropouts etc. <p>CSRs and structural challenges that concern how to regulate the economy and especially the wage setting-system have not been</p>	<p>There is a broad convergence but not a direct causal relationship between some CSRs/structural challenges and national as well as regional programming.</p> <p>There is a strong alignment between CSR/structural challenges and ESI Funds programming in relation to the need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contrasting labour market segmentation (ESF and national OPs YEI) • improving the life-long learning for young people and job seekers (ESF National OP, OP YEI, all regional OPs) • supporting older people employment (national ESF OP) 	<p>The ESI Funds have a marginal financial weight compared to the public funding available for innovation support, SMEs development, training and life-long learning and active inclusion policies.</p> <p>A broad principle, when elaborating OPs, has been to target SOs with a value-added in the context of the existing public policies.</p> <p>Despite the Commission's proposals to simplify the use of ESI Funds, there are still</p>

Member State	Coverage of CSR/structural challenges in OPs	Assessment of how ESIF implementation was influenced	Obstacles to use of ESIF
	addressed not only because some of those challenges require initiatives that go beyond the sphere of intervention of ESI Funds but also because there is not a consensus at the national on these policy options.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> promoting innovation to improve the competitiveness of companies and the economy in general (all regional ERDF ESF OPs and EARDF) 	problems related to the mobilisation of stakeholders, the implementation of management systems and the implementation and use of the "Synergie" information system.
GR	With the exception of EMFF, the strategy and design of all other programmes is based on MoU/Country Reports' challenges. In practically all OPs, challenges related to measures against permanent unemployment, RTDI, Education and Energy Efficiency are referenced. The tight timeframe for the fulfilment of the MoU reforms, which is a precondition for financial instalments often comes in contradiction with the ESI funds regulatory framework (transparency and public procurement rules), which is rather slow and bureaucratic.	<p>ESI Funds implementation was significantly influenced by MoU/Country Reports' challenges. The design of the ESF OP was based on the recommendations of the revised MOU (May 2013) and the CPP.</p> <p>The same applies to the majority of regional OPs (e.g. OP Western Greece, Western Macedonia, Central Macedonia, Peloponnese, Continental Greece). To some extent also the design of EAFRD was based, among others, on the priorities of the MoU Adjustment Programme, which reflects the Council recommendations to be included in the National Reform Programme.</p>	A major obstacle is time. Reforms must be implemented within a limited timeframe dictated by the MOUs while ESIF processes need at least 6 months to conclude due to lengthy maturity processes of the beneficiaries and competition rules including the need for international tenders. Other obstacles: expropriations, the regulations for the protection of cultural heritage, ongoing litigations, the slow jurisdiction process, environmental impact assessments etc.
HR	The Croatian OPs support CSR/structural challenges to a significant extent. This is particularly the case of the ESF addressing almost all issues relevant for the labour market such as the integration of young people (Croatia has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in the EU-28), labour market relevance of education and training	The desk analysis showed that CSR/structural challenges played an important role in the early stage of programming. There are also numerous references to the CSRs particularly in the ESF OP and to a lesser extent in the other programmes. Programming documents addressed a variety of challenges, with a focus on labour market issues such as the access to employment and	<p>There are two main aspects to be mentioned:</p> <p>-coordination at government level, e.g. to coordinate the ministries involved. There is also a high fragmentation and overlapping of responsibilities.</p>

Member State	Coverage of CSR/structural challenges in OPs	Assessment of how ESIF implementation was influenced	Obstacles to use of ESIF
	(Croatia's educational system is outdated and does not respond to the requirements of the labour market). However, investment priorities of the ESF go far beyond the scope of CSRs. The remaining programmes (ERDF, EAFRD, EMFF) focus on some of the key areas of CSRs: research, technology development and innovation and energy networks.	employability of workers, labour market integration of young people, improvement of the labour market relevance of education and training, but also on research and technology, energy networks and resource efficiency, business environment and institutional capacity.	-capacity to implement sound policies, measure effectiveness, make decisions based on previous experiences, ensure effective and timely use of ESI funds.
HU	<p>All cohesion relevant CSRs have been covered at least by one strategic document. Moreover, the Public Service Development OP covered some CSRs not directly relevant for cohesion but dealing with public finance, banking, corruption and liberalisation.</p> <p>The CSRs targeting poverty and social inclusion can be considered a top priority, because almost all of the strategic documents refer to them. The other main CSRs which are extremely important are the ones about employment and education. These three policy areas – education, employment and poverty – covers almost half of the recommendations each year.</p>	<p>The alignment of programming documents and CSR/structural challenges was assessed as high in the PA case and medium-high in the case of the OPs considering that each of these is focused on a more limited set of challenges.</p> <p>Two OPs are particularly important for contributing to address structural challenges and were assessed as very much aligned to the Semester's recommendations (Economic Development and Innovation Operational Programme and Central Hungary Operational Programme), because these documents cover a large number of challenges raised.</p>	The lack of own resources can slow the implementation of structural reforms, and the frequent changes in the structures and human resources of relevant state organizations is also likely to hinder reforms.
IE	Ireland was not part of the Semester process until 2014 and there was only limited CSR involvement before that as relevant to Cohesion policy. However, it should be emphasised that Structural Fund documentation has been influenced from the outset by imperatives that relate to the Structural Reform agenda and the ongoing	The issues covered in the CSRs are priorities for the Irish Government national programmes. A considerable amount of the activities funded by both ESI Funds and mainstream national programmes are relevant to addressing the CSRs, either directly or indirectly. There is strong alignment between ESI Funds programming and the CSR challenges. This is particularly the case	According to the analysis and the interviews there is no specific obstacle to the use of ESI Funds to pursue structural reforms in Ireland.

Member State	Coverage of CSR/structural challenges in OPs	Assessment of how ESIF implementation was influenced	Obstacles to use of ESIF
	actions arising from the Troika process. The OPs focus on all the cohesion relevant structural challenges as they relate to: The labour market, favouring reform and inclusion; Research, technological development and innovation; Product market reform as it relates to access to finance for SMEs and inadequate commercialisation of research; Network industries-correction of market failures.	with reform in the labour market. In deciding what should be the priorities for the use of ESI Funds the respective Irish departments have been fully aware of the importance of realising the objectives contained in the CSRs. However, it should be recognised that the volume of ESI Funds is relatively small compared to those committed by mainstream Government programmes.	
IT	<p>The OPs support the Italian CSRs and structural challenges extensively. The contribution of National OPs to the Italian CSR and structural challenges is inevitably influenced by the policy area addressed at programme level. E.g. the NOPs focusing on policy areas such as Education and Social inclusion are substantially CSR-oriented and include a relatively high number of references to structural challenges. Overall, ESF and ERDF are the most important as far as CSR coverage is concerned.</p> <p>EAFRD and EMFF programmes, include a number of references to CSR/structural challenges, but Semester indications seem to play a more marginal role.</p>	Cohesion relevant CSRs have extensively influenced the programming of ESI Funds. This is proved by the numerous references as well as by the justifications for the choice of Thematic Objectives, related Investment Priorities and Specific Objectives. Particular importance was given to the CSRs on: (1) Better management of EU Funds; (2) Transport infrastructure/logistics; (3) SME access to credit; (4) Youth unemployment; (5) female labour market participation.	Some general issues were highlighted in the interviews. The nature of the CSRs tends to give general indications to Member States rather than specific or detailed ones. This means that some recommendations might be adequate for a number of regions (and relative OPs) but not necessarily for all of them. In order to be truly effective, a recommendation should therefore be as much accurate and tailored as possible. The mismatch between the CSRs yearly time frame and the seven-years programming cycle prevents an effective pursue of structural reforms.
LT	All cohesion relevant CSRs/structural	The desk analysis shows that CSRs/structural	According to the interviewee,

Member State	Coverage of CSR/structural challenges in OPs	Assessment of how ESIF implementation was influenced	Obstacles to use of ESIF
	<p>challenges were targeted in programming documents although not all of them were addressed explicitly. Recommendations on improving employment (particularly 2012 CSR 3.1), boosting energy efficiency (2012, 2013, 2014 CSR 6.1) and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (2012 CR 2.1, 2013 CR 2.1 and 2014 3.1) were targeted most often. Even when no explicit references to CSRs can be found in the OPs, the programmes are adequately aligned with the cohesion relevant CSRs/structural challenges as demonstrated by the actions and the specific objectives pursued in the OPs.</p>	<p>challenges were important in the early stage of programming. However, the interviews suggest that, despite the coherence between the various documents, the actual alignment can be more accidental than sought: implicit references to CSRs/structural challenges found in the OPs are there because they reflect the wide range of goals of Cohesion policy. In any case, the content of the OPs is largely dependent on the development and funding needs outlined in CPP and PA and CSRs were explicitly cited in the descriptions of those needs.</p>	<p>the main obstacles which may hamper the implementation of CSRs and structural reforms (including through ESI funds) are the lack of political will and the poor institutional capacities. Political will may help to ensure the correspondence between CSRs/structural challenges and ESIF programming documents. Good institutional capacities are vital for ensuring the smooth implementation of ESI funds and, accordingly, CSRs/structural challenges that these funds address.</p>
LU	<p>The CSRs/structural challenges, mainly those regarding the diversification of the economy and the need to conduct an adequate policy to prevent youth and migrants unemployment, which is a new situation in Luxembourg, were considered, sometimes explicitly but more often implicitly, in the 3 national programmes (ERDF, ESF and EAFRD).</p> <p>This does not imply an effective causal relationship but rather a common understanding of structural challenges to be addressed between the European Commission and the Luxembourg Authorities.</p>	<p>Implementation of 2014-2020 programming was influenced by CSR/structural challenges. Examples of how the various funds are used to pursue recommendations made by the Commission include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EARDF is used to: support young farmers (UP2FAB); finance supply chain development policy and business networks to improve competitiveness (UP5FAB and UP5FAD) • ERDF pursues several specific objectives aligned with the proposed recommendations such as: SO1b on technology transfer; SO4c and SO4d on energy consumption in public buildings. • ESF addresses: youth training (SO821, 	<p>Two main obstacles to the use of ESI Funds to address structural challenges have been highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature and scope of some CSRs do not fit with the ESI funds regulation (e.g. minimum wage, taxes); • Some CSRs raise issues that are mostly relevant for the national policy or for cooperation between the private and the public sector (Care for old people, Health facilities) rather than for the

Member State	Coverage of CSR/structural challenges in OPs	Assessment of how ESIF implementation was influenced	Obstacles to use of ESIF
		SO922) and seniors (SO811, SO813).	ESI Fund programmes.
LV	The OP Growth and Employment referenced CSRs/structural challenges either explicitly or implicitly. The document discusses at some length how the referenced recommendation goals will be achieved via in-depth discussions of investment targets, priority axes and specific objectives. Therefore, the OP was also highly aligned with cohesion relevant recommendations, missing only a challenge on transport from the 2014 Country Report (CR 3.1).	There is close alignment between ESI Funds programming in Latvia and the CSRs/structural challenges. It would seem that the approach taken by the MA is to tackle as many of the issues as is possible given the funding that the MA has. To exemplify: reform of the higher education and sciences system, an issue much referred to in the CSRs, is one of the most frequently mentioned issues in the ESIF programming documents. The same can be said about healthcare, judicial reform, social exclusion and poverty—these issues are well represented in both the CSRs and in ESI Funds programming documents.	The main reason for not using ESI Funds mentioned by the MA, is that there are occasions, where the line ministries see no reason to use funding to achieve the necessary goals, e.g. the same benefit can be gained via amendments in legal acts. Other than that, wherever needed, the funding provided by ESIF is believed to be used efficiently overall.
MT	<p>All OP, particularly the ERDF and ESF programmes, include reference to the CSR/challenges. The ESF contributes to address especially the challenges related to: Healthcare reform; Labour Market relevance of education; Early school leaving; Female employment; Efficiency of public procurement; Reform of the judicial system.</p> <p>The ERDF contribute to address CSR/structural challenges related to: Public health infrastructures; Education infrastructure; Diversification of the Energy sources; Transport GHG emissions; Waste and Water management; RTDI; SMEs access to finance/venture capital funds; Investment in road transport.</p>	<p>In general there is substantial alignment between the ESI Funds programming and CSRs and structural challenges. The recommendations plaid a central role in programming and implementation, at least as far as ESF and ERDF are concerned.</p> <p>The SO and the actions included in the programmes are relatively exhaustive on how the OPs support the challenges.</p>	<p>The recommendations need to be addressed through a regulatory change which cannot be implemented by the MAs or is beyond their control.</p> <p>Also, the need for concentration on a limited number of priorities could clash with those structural challenges which require extensive interventions, possibly in multiple directions.</p>

Member State	Coverage of CSR/structural challenges in OPs	Assessment of how ESIF implementation was influenced	Obstacles to use of ESIF
	<p>The EAFRD programme addresses certain elements of the CSRs and structural challenges in the policy area of: RTDI, Business environment, Energy networks, RES and emissions, Resources efficiency (water and waste), Combatting discrimination and poverty, Improving access to quality education and training and Improving the LM relevance of education & training systems.</p> <p>Although including only implicit references to CSR/structural challenges, the EMFF programme addresses them systematically in relation to research and innovation, SMEs in fishery and aquaculture sectors, safeguarding ecosystems, support to professional training.</p>		
NL	<p>Even though most cohesion relevant challenges are addressed, to a varying degree in the programming documents, the interviews suggest that the total amount of available ESI Funds in the Netherlands is too small to target all the CSRs. As a consequence the regions have made different choices on the most relevant challenges to deal with. For example: the West Netherlands OP is focused on the "energy-related" and "labour market-related" CSR. At the national level, as highlighted during the interview with the ministry of Economic Affairs, the focus is on the "innovation" and "low carbon energy-related" CSRs/structural challenges.</p>	<p>There is alignment between the ESI Funds programmes and the CSR/structural challenges.</p> <p>The major themes in the ESI programmes are directly derived from the CSRs, viz. "innovation"- and "low carbon energy".</p> <p>On the other hand however not all CSRs were dealt with in the program.</p>	<p>Not all structural challenges were targeted through ESI funds, because the total resources are not considered sufficient to address the complex issues fully. Different choices had to be made by each OP strategy.</p>

Member State	Coverage of CSR/structural challenges in OPs	Assessment of how ESIF implementation was influenced	Obstacles to use of ESIF
PL	<p>The various programming documents generally address the cohesion relevant CSR/structural challenges, and the proposed actions seem to reasonably contribute to tackle these.</p> <p>The sectoral and regional OPs covered the most important recommendations specified for Poland, i.e. support for R&D and innovation, sustainable energy, waste management, institutional capacities (mainly in the area of e-administration and e-public services), as well as female, 50+ and youth participation in the labour market. Issues related to employment, education, training, life-long learning and social inclusion were also included in the programming documents. However, some recommendations – like those referring to the labour market segmentation – were found to be besides the main stream of activities within the ESI funds, and were not reflected in the programming documents.</p>	<p>It is difficult to assess to what extent CSRs/structural challenges influenced directly ESI Funds programming. The reason is that CSRs/structural challenges are focused on issues that are widely known and generally accepted as important, and present in the debate on socio-economic development of Poland. Most of them (e.g. R&D, innovation, labour market, institutional capacity, railway investment) have been known – and valid – for many years. It is very likely that even without CSRs/structural challenges the Polish OPs would have been largely similar to the existing ones. However, the role of CSR/structural challenges is not negligible either: they helped to focus – to some extent – the OPs on key challenges.</p>	<p>No particular obstacles as far as cohesion relevant CSR are concerned. Also, short-term challenges linked to some urgency cannot – and perhaps should not – be directly addressed by the ESI Funds since Cohesion policy should be of long-term character, and a policy that reacts to quickly changing domestic and international situation.</p>
PT	<p>Until June 2014, the Portuguese public policies were heavily dependent of the macroeconomic conditionalities and the Memorandum of Understanding that was determinant for the design of the Partnership Agreement (PA). All the 2011 recommendations of the Council implementing decision on granting Union financial assistance to Portugal are implicitly referred to in the Position Paper (CPP), and therefore play a central role in this document.</p>	<p>There is a great overall alignment between the priorities presented in the Portuguese ESI Funds programming documents and the structural challenges/CSRs. This implicit relation is evident from the analysis of all the programming documents. It should be highlighted that, in retrospective, a great part of the issues addressed by the structural challenges/CSRs produced in the context of the European Semester were already steering the programming and implementation of</p>	<p>The structural challenges that were put in evidence in the 2011 Recommendations and implicitly presented in the CPP were more related with legislation and regulation measures, not as much with investment and, therefore, in these cases the use of ESI Funds to address them was not</p>

Member State	Coverage of CSR/structural challenges in OPs	Assessment of how ESIF implementation was influenced	Obstacles to use of ESIF
	Although there are only a few explicit references to CSRs in the PA, it implicitly covers most of the CSRs presented in 2012, 2013 and 2014.	ESI Funds in the previous programming period.	pertinent. Other than this, the ESI Funds have been used extensively to pursue structural reforms in Portugal. In the current programming period there is still no evaluation study focused on the implementation of the ESI Funds, and it is too early to evaluate its effectiveness. However, in the previous programming period ESI Funds were already allocated to most of the areas targeted by the latest CSRs, and its results showed significant progresses – although still insufficient to solve all the structural challenges, especially in an adverse macro-economic context.
RO	CSRs/structural challenges played a central role in the programming process and appear to be central in most of the Operational Programmes. The OPs are addressing all the relevant cohesion challenges (except a small number of regulatory ones) A large number of cohesion relevant policy areas (twenty) are covered. Only four challenges are not referred to in OPs, and all four are purely regulatory: 2012 MU7.1 and 2014 CSR 2.3 regarding employment protection legislation, adaption of	In the ESF, ERDF and CF OPs, the CSRs/structural challenges have a central role in the programme strategy, with clear explicit or implicit references in different sections of the OPs, a large number of challenges addressed and/or a large proportion of the specific objectives of the OP related to CSRs/structural challenges. In the NRDP and OPFMA CSRs/structural challenges do not have a central role, due to the nature of the interventions focused on agriculture, rural development fishery and maritime affairs, which are not directly	The main obstacles in using ESI Funds to pursue the structural reforms is the insufficient capacity of the authorities responsible for the management of funds and of the beneficiaries, already manifested in the 2007-2013 programming period. The persistence of this weaknesses is reflected at present in the

Member State	Coverage of CSR/structural challenges in OPs	Assessment of how ESIF implementation was influenced	Obstacles to use of ESIF
	the flexicurity principles and reduction of tax burden for low and middle income earners; 2012 MU 5.1 and 2014 CSR 4.3 concerning the wage setting system and transparency of the minimum wage setting.	targeted by the CSRs. Both in the programming and the implementation phase, CSRs are rigorously managed with a coordination role assumed by Ministry of European Funds, working closely with Ministry of External Affairs, responsible for National Reform Programmes and the CSRs.	delay in the implementation of the OPs, including the TA measures which were planned to support the administrative capacity development, and the slow progress in achieving the ex-ante conditionalities.
SI	All cohesion relevant CSRs/structural challenges were targeted in programming documents, especially in the PA, although not all of them were addressed explicitly. The CSRs/structural challenges which are not covered at all deal with the following issues: Adjust employment protection legislation as regards permanent contracts in order to reduce labour market segmentation (2012 CSR 4.1), Energy infrastructure (2012 Country Report 1.1), Sustainable restructuring of over-indebted/ undercapitalised but viable companies through market-based solutions (2013 CSR 9.1).	The desk analysis and the interview showed that CSRs/structural challenges were important in the early stage of programming. Overall, it can be concluded that ESI funds will support the implementation of CSRs/structural reforms in relation to health, long-term care, employment of older workers, public administration and life-long-learning but to a limited extent, due to the limited funds and to the complexity of structural reforms, which would need a very broad, systematic and inclusive approach.	The main obstacles that hamper the use of ESI Funds to address CSRs/structural challenges include: in some areas the funds are limited to be able to address complex structural reforms; CSRs are not always adequately communicated; horizontal coordination between ministries is not adequate (CSRs very often require inter-ministerial coordination); different views among political parties, ministries and experts on what would be politically and economically feasible.
SK	All cohesion relevant CSRs/structural challenges are either explicitly quoted or implicitly addressed in all the Operational Programmes, especially those funded by ERDF/CF and ESF. The CSRs/structural challenges have been addressed in the Country Position Paper and integrated in the	The CSRs/structural challenges focusing on labour market, public employment services, social inclusion, energy efficiency, energy market, public administration, education, regional accessibility as well as marginalised Roma Communities, business environment and R&D support are integrated in the OPs and their priority axes. There is high	The main obstacle which hampers the implementation of CSRs/structural reforms and which was highlighted in the interview is the insufficient volume of national resources and the lack of credible national

Member State	Coverage of CSR/structural challenges in OPs	Assessment of how ESIF implementation was influenced	Obstacles to use of ESIF
	Partnership Agreement and in the Operational Programmes at the beginning of the present programming period.	alignment between the CSRs/structural challenges and the ESIF objectives. The extent to which this strategic alignment will be reflected in actual spending can be assessed only in the next years.	policies which makes it difficult to address the challenges raised. A lot of CSRs/structural reforms (e.g. labour market, integration of marginalised groups, RTDI, education etc.) are periodically raised by the European Commission, however their implementation requires political commitment and political will.
SE	Cohesion relevant CSRs/structural challenges were targeted either explicitly or implicitly in all programming documents. The connection between the CSRs/structural challenges and the Swedish OPs is clear in relation to the ESF priorities concerning labour market participation and social inclusion. There is also a significant linkage between CSR/structural challenges and ERDF choices in relation to innovation, competitiveness of SMEs, R&D and sustainability (i.e. recycling and reduction of emissions).	Overall the CSR and the structural challenges highlighted in the Country Reports had a significant influence on programming. The selection of priorities is based on both CSRs and national and regional analysis of challenges and development needs, as well as on the experiences of the earlier programming periods.	The desk analysis and the interviews carried out in Sweden did not point out any obstacle hampering an effective use of ESI funds to contribute to address structural challenges. All programme documents are based on the principle that ESI funds should be used for pursuing structural reforms both at national and regional level. However, as in other MS where the share of ESIF is limited compared to national budgets (e.g. UK, DE, NL), the contribution of the funds to support reforms can only be marginal.
UK	The OP incorporate the CSR/ structural reforms and there is general alignment.	Implementation is influenced by the CSR and structural challenges because there is close	There are no obvious obstacles which to the use of ESI Fund in

Member State	Coverage of CSR/structural challenges in OPs	Assessment of how ESIF implementation was influenced	Obstacles to use of ESIF
	<p>The ERDF OPs consider RTDI, access to finance for SMEs, the low carbon economy, climate change, floods and environmental protection, road transport and national infrastructure. The ESF OPs include initiatives which are in line with recommendations made by CSR such as: measures to place emphasis on addressing skill mismatches; measures to reduce the number of young people with low basic skills; improving lifelong learning opportunities; efforts to reduce social exclusion and child poverty in low-income households including the availability of affordable childcare. The focus of EAFRD in relation to CSR is on improving the competitiveness of the farming sector. The EMFF also addresses the relevant structural issues as they relate to research and innovation, competitiveness and the labour market.</p>	<p>alignment between them. According to the desk analysis and the interviews, a considerable amount of the activities funded through ESI Funds will be used to address the relevant CSRs. The structural issues covered by the CSRs/structural challenges are in line with the priorities identified by UK as being of relevance for its national programming. Examples include support for SMEs and ensuring access to finance, addressing skill issues particularly as they relate to young people, tackling social exclusion, the need for better leverage of the science base, renewable energy and structural bottlenecks as they relate to infrastructure.</p>	<p>pursuing reforms but it is not clear why there is a need for an annual cycle to the CSR process, particularly since the timing is so tight between the drafting of relevant documentation and the emergence of the annual CSRs. In the UK ESI is not going to have a particularly big impact in terms of the broader objectives of the National Reform Programme because of its relative size, but this would not necessarily be the case in other countries where the Funds are a far greater part of activity in any area of reform.</p>

Annex Table 4 - Examples of Specific Objectives and indicators addressing CSRs¹

Relevant policy areas	CSR	DG	OP CCI	Specific Objective	Indicator/s	Baseline Value	Target (2023)	Value
LM integration of young people	IT 2014 CSR 5.3	EMPL	2014IT05 M9OP001	SO 8.1 Increase employment of NEETs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inactive participants not in education or training who complete the YEI supported intervention • Inactive participants not in education or training who receive an offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship upon leaving • Inactive participants not in education or training who are in education/training, gaining a qualification, or are in employment, including self-employment, upon leaving 	81.0% (2013)	88.0%	
						19.0% (2011)	25.0%	
						37.0% (2011)	50.0%	
Reducing and preventing early school leaving	ES 2014 CSR 4.3	EMPL	2014ES05 SFOP002	SO 10i1 Reduce the number of students who leave school early, involved in basic vocational training and new itineraries of compulsory secondary education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third year secondary school students who pass the academic year 	84.0% (2013)	88.0%	
Gender equality (including	SK 2013 CSR 3.2	EMPL	2014SK05 M0OP001	SO 3.2.1 Increasing employment of persons with parental duties,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of parents who are granted allowance and childcare, six months after leaving 	4,152.0 (2013)	5,198.0	

¹ These are selected examples of indicators. A more comprehensive view of SO is provided in the Excel summary tables.

reconciliation of work and private life)	SK 2014 CSR 3.3			women in particular, by improving conditions for the reconciliation of work and family life	employment, including self-employed		
Improving life-long learning for all age groups	FR 2013 CSR 6.2	EMPL	2014FR16 M0OP006	SO2 Increase quality and efficiency of training systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Success rate for skills training diplomas • Discontinuation rate in training courses 	80% 28.7%	85% 25%
Digital infrastructure and services	PL 2013 CSR 6.4 PL 2014 CSR 5.3	REGIO	2014PL16 RFOP002	SO 1 Eliminating the territorial differences in accessing high-broadband bandwidth (Less developed regions)	• ICT Infrastructure: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps	44.5%	100.0%
Research, technology development and innovation	PT 2014 CSR 4.3	REGIO	2014PT16 M3OP001	SO 4 Reinforce networks, partnerships and cooperation towards business innovation and internationalization	• Companies with 10 or more employees involved in cooperation for innovation, out of the total surveyed companies	13.6% (2010)	20-30%
Institutional capacity, public administration and justice systems	IT 2013 CSR 2.1	EMPL	2014IT05 M2OP002	SO 11.6 - Improvement of multi-level governance and administrative and technical capacity of government in public investment programmes	• Share of operations with implementation duration higher than the reference values indicated by VISTO2 (Less developed regions)	66.0% (2013)	40.0%
Resources efficiency	PL 2013 CSR 6.5	REGIO	2014PL16 M1OP001	SO 6a.1 – Smaller amount of municipal waste subject to storage	• The share of municipal waste collected selectively	10.0% (2011)	50.0%

² VISTO is a portal developed by the Italian Development and Economic Cohesion Department. It provides estimates on the implementation duration of operations concerning sectors such as Transport, Environment, Water management, etc. Please make reference to <http://dpsweb.dps.gov.it/VISTO/>.

Access to employment and employability of workers (including activation, LM participation and labour tax wedge)	BE 2015 CSR 3.1	AGRI	2014BE06 RDRP001	UP6FAa - facilitating diversification, creation and development of small enterprises, as well as job creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of agriculture holdings with RDP supported business development plan/investments for young farmers 	N/A	1,400.0 (Context indicator of Agricultural holdings: 25,217.0)
Energy networks, RES and emissions	BE 2014 CSR 6.1	MARE	2014BE14 MFOP001	UP1(a) reduction of the impact of fisheries on the marine environment, including the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in the fuel efficiency of fishing (fuel consumption) 	1,730.0 (Litres of fuel per barrel of fish delivered)	1,645.0 (Litres of fuel per barrel of fish delivered)

Annex Table 5 - Summary of the alignment between CSR/structural challenges and ESI Funds programming

Member State	Position Paper	Partnership Agreement	Operational Programmes	General Assessment
Austria	High alignment	High alignment	Medium-High alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming; coherence between programming documents. High financial contribution of ESIF to structural challenges.
Belgium	High alignment	Medium-High alignment	Medium-High alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming; coherence between documents High financial contribution of ESIF to structural challenges.
Bulgaria	Medium alignment	Medium alignment	Medium-High alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming; coherence between documents High financial contribution of ESIF to CSR in policy areas where there are challenges.
Croatia	High alignment	High alignment	Medium-High alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming. Coherence between programming documents
Czech Republic	High alignment	Medium-High alignment	Medium-High alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming; coherence between documents Moderate financial contribution of ESIF to structural challenges.
Cyprus	Medium alignment	High alignment	Medium-High alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming. Coherence between programming documents but PA and OPs are more comprehensive than the CPP in relation to challenges targeted.
Denmark	Medium-Low alignment	Medium alignment	Medium alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming; coherence between documents High financial contribution of ESIF to CSR in policy areas where there are challenges.
Estonia	High alignment	High alignment	Medium-High alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming; coherence between documents High financial contribution of ESIF to structural challenges.
Finland	High alignment	High alignment	Medium alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming; coherence between documents High financial contribution of ESIF to structural challenges.
France	Medium alignment	Medium-Low alignment	Medium-Low alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming. Coherence between programming documents.
Germany	Medium alignment	Medium alignment	Medium alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming; coherence between documents Moderate financial contribution of ESIF to structural challenges.
Greece	Medium alignment	High alignment	Medium-High alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming; Coherence between programming documents but PA and OPs are more comprehensive than the CPP in relation to challenges targeted.
Spain	High alignment	High alignment	Medium-High alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming; coherence between documents High financial contribution of ESIF to structural challenges.

Hungary	High alignment	High alignment	Medium-High alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming; coherence between documents. • High financial contribution of ESIF to structural challenges.
Ireland	Medium alignment	High alignment	Medium-High alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming; coherence between documents. • High financial contribution of ESIF to structural challenges.
Italy	High alignment	High alignment	Medium-High alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming; coherence between documents. • High financial contribution of ESIF to structural challenges.
Lithuania	High alignment	High alignment	Medium alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming; coherence between documents • High financial contribution of ESIF to structural challenges.
Latvia	High alignment	High alignment	High alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming. • Coherence between programming documents.
Luxembourg	High alignment	High alignment	Medium alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming. • Coherence between programming documents.
Malta	High alignment	High alignment	High alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming; coherence between documents • High financial contribution of ESIF to structural challenges.
Netherlands	High alignment	High alignment	Medium-Low alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming; OPs do not reflect the emphasis that CPP and PA put on CSRs. • High financial contribution of ESIF to CSR in policy areas where there are challenges.
Poland	High alignment	High alignment	Medium alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming; coherence between documents. • High financial contribution of ESIF to CSR in policy areas where there are challenges.
Portugal	Medium alignment	Medium alignment	Medium alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming; coherence between documents. • High financial contribution of ESIF in policy areas where there are structural challenges.
Romania	High alignment	High alignment	Medium-High alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming; coherence between documents. • High financial contribution of ESIF to structural challenges.
Slovakia	High alignment	High alignment	High alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming; coherence between documents • High financial contribution of ESIF to structural challenges.
Slovenia	High alignment	High alignment	Medium-High alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming; coherence between documents • High financial contribution of ESIF in policy areas where there are structural challenges.

Sweden	High alignment	High alignment	Medium-High alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming; coherence between documents. • Moderate financial contribution of ESIF to structural challenges.
United Kingdom	Medium alignment	High alignment	Medium-High alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate influence of CSR/structural challenges on ESIF programming; coherence between documents • High financial contribution of ESIF in policy areas in which there are structural challenges.

Annex Table 6 - Thematic ex-ante conditionalities

1.1.	Research and innovation	Research and innovation: The existence of a national or regional smart specialisation strategy in line with the National Reform Programme, to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well-performing national or regional R&I systems.
1.2.	Research infrastructure	Research and Innovation infrastructure. The existence of a multi-annual plan for budgeting and prioritisation of investments.
2.1.	Digital growth	Digital growth: A strategic policy framework for digital growth to stimulate affordable, good quality and interoperable ICT-enabled private and public services and increase uptake by citizens, including vulnerable groups, businesses and public administrations including cross border initiatives.
2.2.	Next Generation Network	Next Generation Network (NGN) Infrastructure: The existence of national or regional NGN Plans which take account of regional actions in order to reach the Union high-speed Internet access targets, focusing on areas where the market fails to provide an open infrastructure at an affordable cost and of a quality in line with the Union competition and State aid rules, and to provide accessible services to vulnerable groups.
3.1.	Small Business Act	Specific actions have been carried out to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship taking into account the Small Business Act (SBA).
4.1.	Energy efficiency	Actions have been carried out to promote cost-effective improvements of energy end use efficiency and cost-effective investment in energy efficiency when constructing or renovating buildings.
4.2.	Co-generation	Actions have been carried out to promote high-efficiency co-generation of heat and power.
4.3.	Renewables	Actions have been carried out to promote the production and distribution of renewable energy sources (4).
5.1.	Risk management	Risk prevention and risk management: the existence of national or regional risk assessments for disaster management taking into account adaptation to climate change
6.1.	Water sector	Water sector: The existence of a) a water pricing policy which provides adequate incentives for users to use water resources efficiently and b) an adequate contribution of the different water uses to the recovery of the costs of water services at a rate determined in the approved river basin management plan for investment supported by the programmes.
6.2.	Waste sector	Waste sector: Promoting economically and environmentally sustainable investments in the waste sector particularly through the development of waste management plans consistent with Directive 2008/98/EC, and with the waste hierarchy.
7.1.	Transport master plan	Transport: The existence of a comprehensive plan or plans or framework or frameworks for transport investment in accordance with the Member States' institutional set-up (including public transport at regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN-T comprehensive and core networks.
7.2.	Railway	Railway: The existence within the comprehensive transport plan or plans or framework or frameworks of a specific section on railway development in accordance with the Member States' institutional set-up (including concerning public transport at regional and local level) which supports infrastructure development and improves connectivity to the TEN-T comprehensive and core networks. The investments cover mobile assets, interoperability and capacity-building.
7.3.	Other modes of transport	Other modes of transport, including inland-waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure: the

		existence within the comprehensive transport plan or plans or framework or frameworks of a specific section on inland-waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, which contribute to improving connectivity to the TEN-T comprehensive and core networks and to promoting sustainable regional and local mobility.
7.4.	Smart energy infrastructure	Development of smart energy distribution, storage and transmission systems.
		The existence of comprehensive plans for investments in smart energy infrastructure, and of regulatory measures, which contribute to improving energy efficiency and security of supply
8.1.	Active labour market policies	Active labour market policies are designed and delivered in the light of the Employment guidelines.
8.2.	Self-employment	Self-employment, entrepreneurship and business creation: the existence of a strategic policy framework for inclusive start-up.
8.3.	Labour market institutions	Labour market institutions are modernised and strengthened in the light of the Employment Guidelines;
		Reforms of labour market institutions will be preceded by a clear strategic policy framework and ex-ante assessment including with regard to the gender dimension
8.4.	Active health ageing	Active and healthy ageing: Active ageing policies are designed in the light of the Employment Guidelines
8.5.	Adaptation of workers, enterprises to change	Adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change: The existence of policies aimed at favouring anticipation and good management of change and restructuring.
8.6.	Strategy for youth employment	The existence of a strategic policy framework for promoting youth employment including through the implementation of the Youth Guarantee.
		This ex-ante conditionality applies only for implementation of the YEI
9.1.	Strategy for poverty reduction	The existence and the implementation of a national strategic policy framework for poverty reduction aiming at the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market in the light of the Employment guidelines.
9.2.	Roma inclusion strategy	A national Roma inclusion strategic policy framework is in place
9.3.	Health	Health: The existence of a national or regional strategic policy framework for health within the limits of Article 168 TFEU ensuring economic sustainability.
10.1.	Early school leaving	Early school leaving: The existence of a strategic policy framework to reduce early school leaving (ESL) within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.
10.2.	Higher education	Higher education: the existence of a national or regional strategic policy framework for increasing tertiary education attainment, quality and efficiency within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.
10.3.	Lifelong learning	Lifelong learning (LL): The existence of a national and/or regional strategic policy framework for lifelong learning within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.
10.4.	Strategy for vocational education and training	The existence of a national or regional strategic policy framework for increasing the quality and efficiency of VET systems within the limits of Article 165 TFEU.
11.1.	Institutional capacity	The existence of a strategic policy framework for reinforcing the Member States' administrative efficiency including public administration reform

Source: Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, ANNEX XI, Part I ComRep p.98-99

Annex Table 7 - General ex-ante conditionalities

1.	Anti-discrimination	The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union anti-discrimination law and policy in the field of ESI Funds
2.	Gender	The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of Union gender equality law and policy in the field of ESI Funds
3.	Disability	The existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in the field of ESI Funds in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC (9)
4.	Public procurement	The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union public procurement law in the field of the ESI Funds.
5.	State aid	The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union State aid rules in the field of the ESI Funds.
6.	Environmental legislation relating to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	The existence of arrangements for the effective application of Union environmental legislation related to EIA and SEA.
7.	Statistical systems and result indicators	The existence of a statistical basis necessary to undertake evaluations to assess the effectiveness and impact of the programmes.
		The existence of a system of result indicators necessary to select actions, which most effectively contribute to desired results, to monitor progress towards results and to undertake impact evaluation.

Source: Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, ANNEX XI, Part II ComRep 97.

Annex Table 8 - Summary of the relation between reform triggering ExAC and CSR/structural challenges

Thematic ExAC	MS where ExAC have triggered reforms	Related CSR/structural challenges				Comments
		2012	2013	2014	2015	
1.1 Research and innovation	BG	2012 CR 4.1	2013 CR 1.1	2014 CR 2.1	2015 CR 1.1	<p>ExAC 1.1 triggered reforms in 13 Member States, two belonging to the EU15 (IT and GR) while the remaining are EU13 countries.</p> <p>All these countries had CSR/challenges from the Country Reports in the field of research and innovation in 2012-2015. In the majority of the countries, the recommendations on RTDI persisted in the whole period. Only in Italy and Cyprus there are challenges only in 2012 which may indicate that they were addressed to some extent before the ExAC. In Greece, a MoU challenge relevant for this area appeared in 2014 but was not reiterated in 2015.</p>
	CZ	2012 CSR 6.1	2013 CSR 6.2	2014 CSR 5.2	2015 CR 1.1	
	LV	2012 CSR 7.2	2013 CSR 5.2	2014 CSR 2.3	2015 CSR 2.3	
	PL	2012 CSR 5.1	2013 CSR 5.1	2014 CSR 4.1	2015 CR 4.1	
	SK	2012 CR 4.1	2013 CR 2.1	2014 CR 2.1	2015 CR 1.1	
	HU	2012 CSR 5.3	2013 CSR 5.6	-	2015 CR 1.1	
	LT	-	2013 CR 4.1	2014 CR 2.1	2015 CR 2.1	
	RO	-	2013 CSR 7.2	2014 CR 1.1	2015 CR 2.1	
	SI	-	2013 CR 1.1	2014 CSR 7.2	2015 CR 1.1	
	HR	-	2013 CR 12.1	2014 CR 1.1	-	
	IT	2012 CR 3.1	-	-	-	
	CY	2012 CSR 5.3	-	-	-	
1.2 Research and infrastructure	EL	-	-	2014 MoU 13.1	-	<p>ExAC 1.2 triggered reforms relevant for RTDI infrastructure in 7 MS, 5 of them belonging to the EU13.</p> <p>4 of these countries, Bulgaria, Poland, Cyprus and Italy, had CSR/structural challenges relevant for research infrastructure in 2012, while they received</p>
	BG	2012 CR 4.1	-	-	-	
	CY	2012 CSR 5.3	-	-	-	
	IT	2012 CR 3.1	-	-	-	
	PL	2012 CSR 5.1	-	-	-	
	EL	-	-	-	-	

	HU	-	-	-	-	no recommendations in the following years.
	SK	-	-	-	-	
2.1 Digital growth	BG	2012 CR 5.1	2013 CR 2.1	2014 CR 3.1	2015 CR 2.1	The ExAC 2.1 triggered reforms in 10 MS. Bulgaria, Poland and Italy had also CSR/recommendations all throughout the period considered. These recommendations concerned digital infrastructure and services.
	PL	2012 CR 2.1	2013 CSR 6.4	2014 CSR 5.3	2015 CR 5.1	
	IT	-	2013 CSR 6.4	-	2015 CR 3.1	
	RO	-	2013 CSR 8.4	2014 CR 3.1	-	
	CY	2012 CR 3.1	-	-	-	
	SI	-	2013 CR 2.1	-	-	
	CZ	-	-	-	-	
	EL	-	-	-	-	
	HR	-	-	-	-	
	HU	-	-	-	-	
2.2 Next Generation Network	RO	-	2013 CSR 8.4	2014 CR 3.1	-	ExAC 2.2 was found to be reform triggering in eight cases. Romania, Slovenia and Cyprus have also relevant CSR/challenges in 2012-2014.
	SI	-	2013 CR 2.1	-	-	
	CY	2012 CR 3.1	-	-	-	
	CZ	-	-	-	-	
	EL	-	-	-	-	
	HR	-	-	-	-	
	HU	-	-	-	-	
	LT	-	-	-	-	
3.1 Small Business Act	HR	-	2013 CR 10.1	2014 CSR 5.1	2015 CSR 5.1	ExAC 3.1 was considered reform triggering in four Member States which also had CSR/structural challenges related to business environment.
		-		2014 CSR 7.1	2015 CSR 6.1	
	RO	2012 MoU 4.1	2013 CSR 7.1	2014 CR 5.1	-	

	CY	2012 CR 1.1	-	-	-	
	CZ	-	2013 CSR 7.1	-	-	
4.1 Energy efficiency	EE	2012 CSR 4.1	2013 CSR 4.1	2014 CSR 4.1	-	ExAC 4.1 triggered reforms in six Member States. All these countries have several and repeated CSR/structural challenges concerned with energy networks, and emissions. On the other hand the ExAC 4.2 co-generation was not found to be reform triggering in any MS.
		2012 CSR 4.2	2013 CSR 4.2	2014 CSR 4.2	-	
	EL	2012 MoU 11.1	2013 MoU 12.1	2014 MoU 14.1	2015 MoU 10.1	
	HU	2012 CSR 7.2	2013 CSR 7.1	2014 CSR 7.1	2015 CR 3.1	
	LT	2012 CSR 6.1	2013 CSR 6.1	2014 CSR 6.1	-	
	NL	2012 CR 2.1	2013 CR 2.1	2014 CR 3.1	-	
	SI	2012 CR 2.1	2013 CR 1.1	2014 CR 3.1	2015 CR 4.1	
4.3 Renewables		2012 CR 1.1	2013 CR 4.1	2014 CR 2.1	2015 CR 2.1	ExAC 4.3 triggered reforms only in Slovenia, where there were also structural challenges highlighted in the 2012 and 2013 Country Reports
	SI	2012 CR 3.1	2013 CR 4.1	-	-	
5.1 Risk management	CY	-	-	-	-	ExAC 5.1 triggered reforms in seven MS but there was no relevant CSR/structural challenge in the period considered.
	CZ	-	-	-	-	
	EE	-	-	-	-	
	ES	-	-	-	-	
	HR	-	-	-	-	
	LV	-	-	-	-	
	RO	-	-	-	-	
6.1 Water	EL	2014 CR 4.1	-	-	2015 MoU	ExAC 6.1 was reform triggering in 9

sector	SI HR LV PL CY CZ HU RO	2013 CR 3.1 - 2012 CR 6.1 - - - - -	- - 2013 CR 4.1 2013 CSR 6.5 - - - -	- - - - - - -	11.1 2015 CR 4.1 2015 CR 5.1 - - - - -	Member States. In Greece, Slovenia and Croatia a related challenge was highlighted in the MoU or the Country Report still in 2015. In Latvia an Poland, the CSR/challenges concerning resource efficiency and in particular water disappeared after 2013.
6.2 Waste sector	ES HR LV PL RO EL CY CZ	2012 CR 2.1 - 2012 CR 6.1 2012 CR 3.1 2013 CR 2.1 - 2012 CR 5.1 -	2013 CR 2.1 2013 CR 15.1 2013 CR 4.1 2013 CSR 6.5 - - -	- - - 2014 CSR 5.4 2014 CR 4.1 2014 CR 4.1 - -	2015 CR 3.1 2015 CR 5.1 2015 CR 2.1 - - - -	ExAC 6.3 triggered reforms in eight Member States. In Spain, Croatia and Latvia, Country Report challenges concerning resource efficiency, in particular waste, persisted until 2015. In Poland, Romania and Greece we recorded a CSR/challenge until 2014.
7.1 Transport master plan	BG CZ EL HR HU	- - 2012 MoU 12.1 - 2012 CSR 7.1	- - 2013 MoU 13.1 - 2013 CSR 7.2	- - 2014 MoU 15.1 - 2014 CSR 7.2	2015 CR 4.1 - 2015 MoU 12.1 2015 CR 4.1 2015 CR 5.1	ExAC 7.1 was reform triggering in nine Member States. In Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Malta and Romania, the CSR as well as the challenges from Country Reports and MoU persisted over the years considered. In Slovenia the last challenge on transport was highlighted in the 2014 Country

	LV	2012 CR 5.1	2013 CR 3.1	2014 CR 2.1	2015 CR 3.1	Report while in Bulgaria it was included in the 2015 Country Report.
	MT	2012 CR 2.1	-	-	2015 CR 1.1	
	RO	2012 MoU 3.1	2013 CSR 8.3	2014 CR 2.1	2015 CR 3.1	
	SI	2012 CR 2.1	2013 CR 5.1	2014 CR 1.1	-	
7.2 Railway	CZ	-	-	-	-	ExAC 7.2 was found as reform triggering in seven Member States. Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Romania and Slovenia also had challenges concerning railways in Country Reports and MoU.
	EL	2012 MoU 12.1	2013 MoU 13.1	2014 MoU 15.1	2015 MoU 12.1	
	HR	-	-	-	-	
	HU	-	-	-	2015 CR 5.1	
	LV	2012 CR 5.1	2013 CR 3.1	-	-	
	RO	2012 MoU 3.1	-	2014 CR 2.1	2015 CR 3.1	
	SI	2012 CR 2.1	2013 CR 5.1	2014 CR 1.1	-	
7.3 Other modes of transport	CZ	-	-	-	-	ExAC 7.3 triggered reforms in six Member States. Only Latvia and Romania had Country Report challenges in this policy area. In the case of Latvia the challenge appeared in 2013 only. In Romania it was reiterated in 2014 and 2015.
	HR	-	-	-	-	
	LV	-	2013 CR 3.1	-	-	
	MT	-	-	-	-	
	RO	-	-	2014 CR 2.1	2015 CR 3.1	
	SI	-	-	-	-	
7.4 Smart energy infrastructure	LT	-	-	-	-	ExAC 7.4 triggered reforms in three Member States but neither of them had CSR/challenges in this area.
	PL	-	-	-	-	
	RO	-	-	-	-	
8.1 Active labour market	EL	2012 MoU 9.1	2013 MoU 7.2	2014 MoU 7.1	-	ExAC 8.1 triggered reforms in six Member States.
	HR	-	-	2014 CSR 3.3	2015 CSR 3.2	

policies				2014 CSR 4.1		In all of them except for Czech Republic there are reiterated CSR on access to employment in the entire period considered.
	HU	-	2013 CSR 4.2	2014 CSR 4.1	2015 CSR 4.1	
	RO	-	2013 CSR 4.1	2014 CSR 4.1	2015 CSR 3.1	
	SK	2012 CSR 4.1	2013 CSR 3.1	2014 CSR 3.1	2015 CSR 2.1	
	CZ	-	-	-	-	
8.2 Self-employment	CZ	-	-	-	-	ExAC 8.2 triggered reforms in three countries but there are no CSR/challenges concerning this specific issue in those Member States.
	EL	-	-	-	-	
	PL	-	-	-	-	
8.3 Labour market institutions	CZ	2012 CSR 4.1	2013 CSR 4.1	2014 CSR 4.1	-	ExAC 8.3 triggered reforms in 5 Member States. In Greece, the MoU highlighted a relevant challenge in 2012 which was not repeated afterwards. In the other countries, CSR are reiterated until 2014.
	EL	2012 MoU 9.1	-	-	-	
	HR	-	-	2014 CSR 3.3	-	
	RO	-	2013 CSR 4.1	2014 CSR 4.1	-	
	SK	2012 CSR 4.1	2013 CSR 3.1	2014 CSR 3.1	-	
8.4 Active health ageing	PL	-	2013 CSR 4.3	2014 CSR 3.3	2015 CR 2.1	ExAC 8.4 triggered reforms in Poland, Romania and Slovenia. All of them had CSR/challenges on related issues, which were repeated throughout the years in Poland and Slovenia.
	RO	-	-	2014 CSR 4.1	-	
	SI	-	2013 CSR 3.2	-	2015 CSR 2.2	
8.5 Adaptation of workers, enterprises to change	EL		2013 CSR 3.2	-	-	ExAC 8.5 triggered reforms in three countries. In two of them, Greece and Romania, there were relevant CSR/Challenges before the approval of the Partnership Agreement which were then
	PL	-	-	-	-	
	RO	2012 MoU 7.1	-	-	-	

						dropped.
8.6 Strategy for youth employment	CY	2012 CSR 5.2	2013 MoU 7.2	2014 MoU 6.2	2015 MoU 6.1	ExAC 8.6 was found to be reform triggering in Cyprus and Croatia where there are several relevant CSR/challenges in the years considered.
	HR	-	2013 CR 6.1	2014 CSR 3.1 2014 CSR 3.3 2014 CSR 3.4	-	
9.1 Strategy for poverty reduction	CY	-	-	-	2015 MoU 5.2	ExAC 9.1 triggered reforms in 11 Member States. All of them, but Poland, have relevant CSR/structural challenges in 2012-2015 which are aimed at contrasting discrimination and poverty.
	EE	-	-	-	2015 CR 1.1	
	EL	2012 CR 1.1	2013 MoU 8.2	2014 MoU 8.1	2015 MoU 5.1	
	HR	-	2013 CR 9.1	2014 CSR 4.2	2015 CSR 3.3	
	HU	-	-	-	2015 CSR 4.2	
	IT		2013 CSR 5.6	2014 CSR 5.4	2015 CR 6.1	
	LT	2012 CSR 4.1	2013 CSR 4.1	2014 CSR 4.1	-	
	LV	2012 CSR 4.1	2013 CSR 4.1	2014 CSR 3.1	2015 CSR 3.1	
	PL	-	-	-	-	
	RO	-	2013 CSR 4.3 2013 CSR 5.4	2014 CSR 6.1	2015 CSR 3.4	
	SK	-	2013 CR 5.1	2014 CR 5.1	2015 CR 7.1	
9.2 Roma inclusion strategy	BG	2012 CSR 3.3	2013 CSR 3.3	2014 CR 1.1	2015 CR 6.1	ExAC 9.2 triggered reforms in eight Member States. Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia also have CSR/challenges on Roma inclusion throughout 2012-2015.
	CZ	2012 CR 3.1	2013 CR 3.1	2014 CR 2.1	2015 CR 4.1	
	EL	-	-	-	-	
	HU	2012 CSR 4.2	2013 CSR 4.5	2014 CSR 4.5	2015 CR 8.1	
	LT	-	-	-	-	
	PL	-	-	-	-	

	RO	-	2013 CSR 4.3	2014 CSR 6.1	-	
	SK	2012 CR 1.1	2013 CSR 4.3	2014 CSR 4.2	2015 CR 6.1	
9.3 Health	BG	2012 CR 6.1	2013 CSR 4.3	2014 CSR 2.2	2015 CSR 1.3	<p>ExAC 9.3 was reform triggering in 11 Member States.</p> <p>In all of them except for Estonia, there are CSR/structural challenges aimed at improving management and efficiency of the health care system.</p>
	CZ	-	2013 CSR 3.3	2014 CSR 3.2	2015 CSR 1.2	
	EE	-	-	-	-	
	EL	2012 MoU 5.1	2013 MoU 9.1	2014 MoU 9.1	2015 MoU 4.1	
	HR	-	-	2014 CSR 2.2	2015 CSR 2.2	
	HU	-	2013 CR 1.1	2014 CR 2.1	2015 CR 9.1	
	LT	-	-	-	2015 CSR 2.2	
	LV	-	-	2014 CSR 3.3	2015 CSR 3.3	
	MT	-	2013 CSR 2.3	2014 CSR 2.2	-	
	PL	-	2013 CR 1.1	-	-	
	RO	-	2013 CSR 3.1	2014 CSR 3.1	2015 CSR 3.7	
10.1 Early school leaving	EL	-	-	-	-	<p>ExAC 10.1 triggered reforms in 6 Member States.</p> <p>Among them, Hungary, Latvia and Romania have also CSR/structural challenges concerning early school leaving in 2012-2015.</p>
	HU	2012 CSR 6.1	2013 CSR 6.1	2014 CSR 6.1	2015 CR 10.1	
	LT	-	-	-	-	
	LV	2012 CSR 3.1	-	-	-	
	RO	-	2013 CSR 5.3	-	2015 CSR 3.6	
	SK	-	-	-	-	
10.2 Higher education	BG	2012 CSR 4.1 2012 CR 3.3	2013 CSR 4.1	2014 CSR 4.1	-	<p>ExAC 10.2 was considered reform triggering in eight Member States.</p> <p>In all of them except Latvia and Romania, there is a high degree of consistency with the Semester as there are also</p>
	CZ	-	-	-	2015 CSR 4.1	
	EL	2012 MoU 6.1	2013 MoU	2014 MoU	2015 MoU 8.2	

			10.1	10.1		CSR/structural challenges concerning higher education in the considered period.
	HR	-	-	-	-	
	HU	2012 CSR 6.2	2013 CSR 6.4	2014 CSR 6.4	-	
	LT	-	-	-	-	
	RO	-	-	-	-	
	SK	2012 CR 2.1	2013 CR 1.1	2014 CR 1.1	-	
10.3 Lifelong learning	CY	-	-		-	ExAC 10.3 triggered reforms in eight Member States. However only two of them, Czech Republic and Hungary, have CSR/challenges in the period considered. Hence there is consistency with the Semester in these country and potential synergy between ExAC and CSR/challenges.
	CZ	-	-		2015 CSR 4.2	
	HR	-	-		-	
	HU	-	2013 CSR 4.3		2015 CR 11.1	
	LT	-	-		-	
	MT	-	-		-	
	RO	-	-		-	
	SK	-	-		-	
10.4 Strategy for vocational education and training	BG	-	-	2014 CSR 4.1	-	ExAC 10.4 was reform triggering in eight Member States. There is consistency with the Semester as, in all of the countries apart from Cyprus, there are CSR/structural challenges which concern VET.
	CY	-	-	-	-	
	CZ	-	-	-	2015 CR 6.1	
	EL	-	-	2014 MoU 10.2	-	
	HR	-	2013 CR 8.1	2014 CSR 3.5	-	
	LT	-	2013 CSR 3.3	-	2015 CSR 2.1	
	RO	-	-	2014 CSR 5.1	-	
	SK	2012 CSR 5.1	2013 CSR 4.2	2014 CSR 4.1	2015 CSR 2.2	

11.1 Institutional capacity	BG	2012 CSR 5.1 2012 CSR 6.1	2013 CSR 6.1 2013 CSR 7.1	2014 CSR 5.2	2015 CR 10.1	<p>ExAC 11.1 triggered reforms aiming at improving institutional capacity in ten Member States.</p> <p>There is a high degree of coherence with the Semester as all these countries have a significant number of CSR/structural challenges in 2012-2015.</p> <p>The potential for ExAC contribution towards addressing the challenges underlying CSR and/or highlighted in the Country Reports is considerable.</p>
	CZ	2012 CSR 5.1 2012 CR 5.1	2013 CSR 5.2	2014 CSR 7.1	2015 CSR 2.3 2015 MoU 2.1	
	EL	2012 MoU 3.1 2012 MoU 3.2 2012 MoU 3.2	2013 MoU 3.1 2013 MoU 3.2	2014 MoU 3.1 2014 MoU 3.2	2015 MoU 13.1 2015 MoU 13.2	
	HR	-	2013 CR 16.1 2013 CR 13.1	2014 CSR 5.2 2014 CSR 7.2	2015 CSR 4.1 2015 CSR 5.2	
	HU	2012 CSR 5.1	2013 CSR 5.2 2013 CSR 5.4	2014 CSR 5.2	2015 CSR 3.5 2015 CR 12.1	
	LV	2012 CSR 6.1	2013 CSR 7.1	2014 CR 3.1 2014 CSR 5.1	2015 CSR 4.1	
	PT	2012 EU 3.1 2012 EU 7.1	-	2014 CSR 8.1	2015 CSR 5.1	
	RO	2012 MoU 1.1 2012 EU 4.1	2013 CSR 5.1 2013 CSR 6.1 2013 CSR 7.3 2013 CR 6.1	2014 CSR 7.1	2015 CR 7.1	
	SI	-	2013 CSR 7.1 2013 CSR 9.2	2014 CR 3.1	2015 CSR 4.1	
	SK	2012 CR 9.1	2013 CSR 6.1	2014 CSR 6.1	2015 CSR 4.2	

