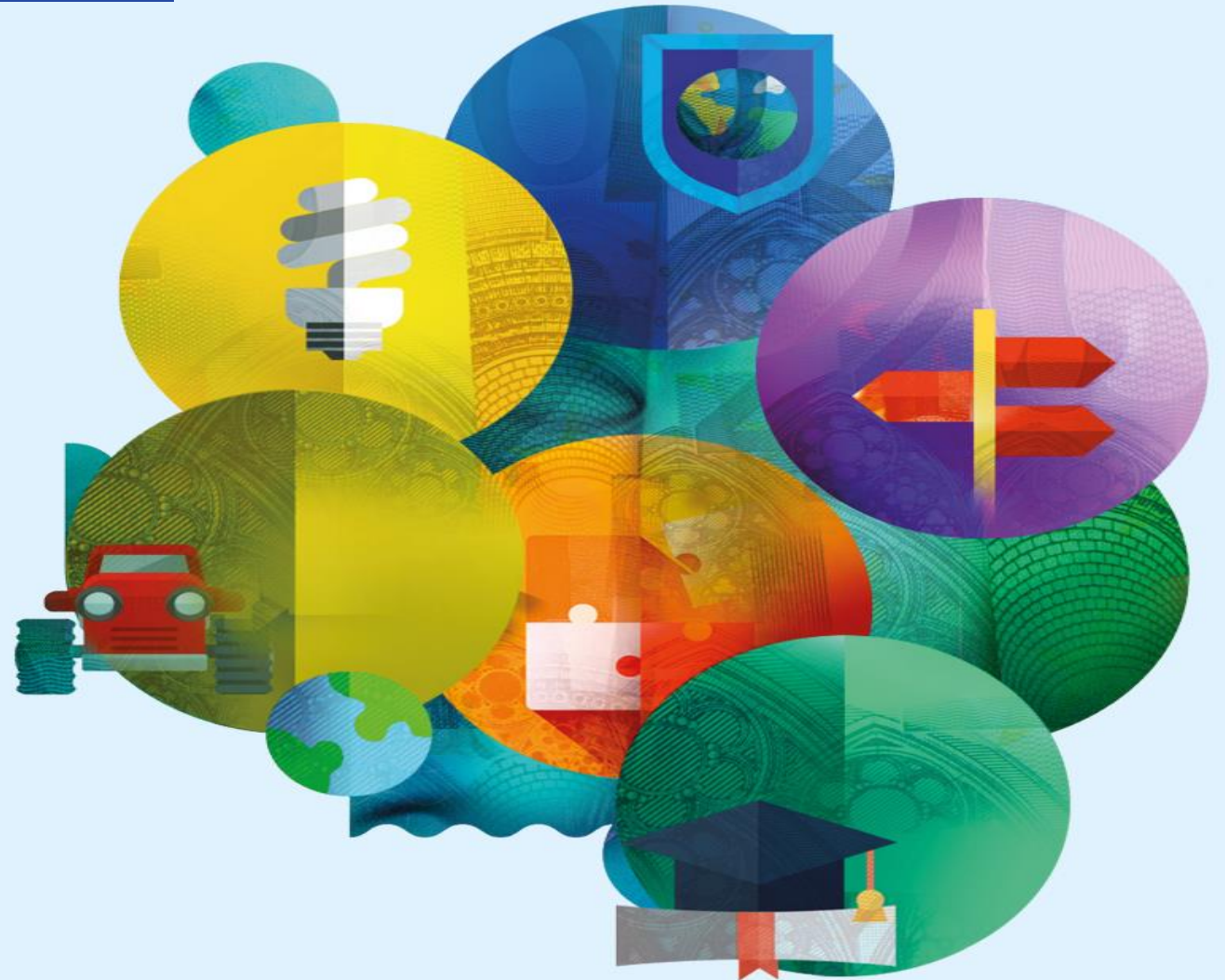


ERDF support to skills development

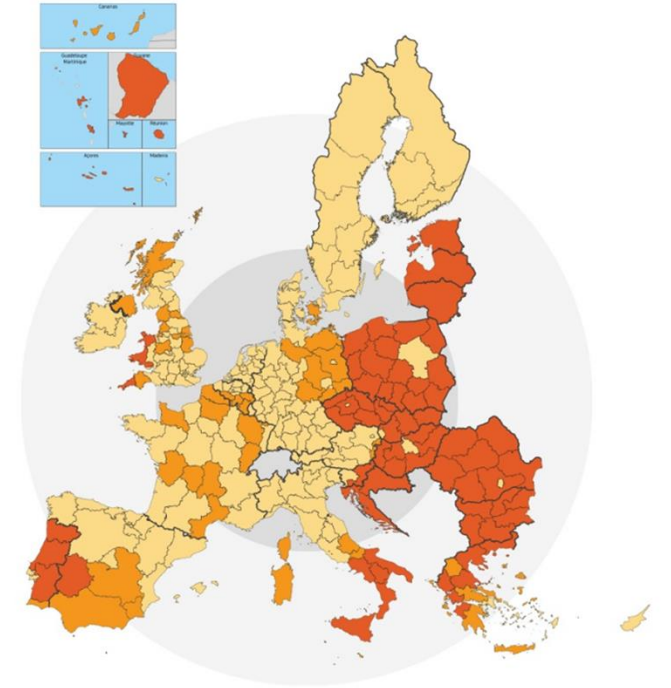
Webinar on funding for the Pact of
Skills – 23 February 2021

Laurent de Mercey
DG Regional and Urban Policy



Basics on Cohesion Policy and the ERDF

- ▶ **Based on EU Treaty Articles 174 & 176:** aiming at 'economic, social and territorial cohesion', 'reducing disparities' and 'structural adjustment of lagging regions and the conversion of declining industrial regions'
- ▶ **2021-2027: €191 billion** for the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**, + national co-financing
- ▶ **Shared Management** - over 400 national or regional **operational programmes** approved by the Commission, **project selection at national/regional levels** by management authorities
- ▶ Focus on **regional relevance and durability of investments**
- ▶ **Tailored to regions' / MS needs, potentials and context**
with different co-funding rates, specific objectives, targets, delivery modes



Geographic pre-allocation of funds

Around 80% of Cohesion Policy funding goes to the less developed regions and countries.

See Cohesion Policy Data:

<https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/>

Programming, Partnership and Shared Management



Strong role for MS authorities in programming, implementation and monitoring of 400 investment and cooperation programmes:

- **Managing authority** to implement the operational programme
- **Monitoring committee** to provide oversight.
- **Certification body** and an **auditing body** to supervise the efficient running of the management and monitoring system.

2021-2027: 5 policy objectives supported by the ERDF



A more competitive and smarter Europe (innovative & smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity)



A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe (including energy transition, the circular economy, climate change mitigation, risk management and sustainable urban mobility)



A more connected Europe by enhancing mobility



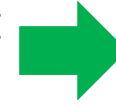
A more social and inclusive Europe (the European Pillar of Social Rights)



A Europe closer to citizens (sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories and local initiatives)

Horizontal issues:

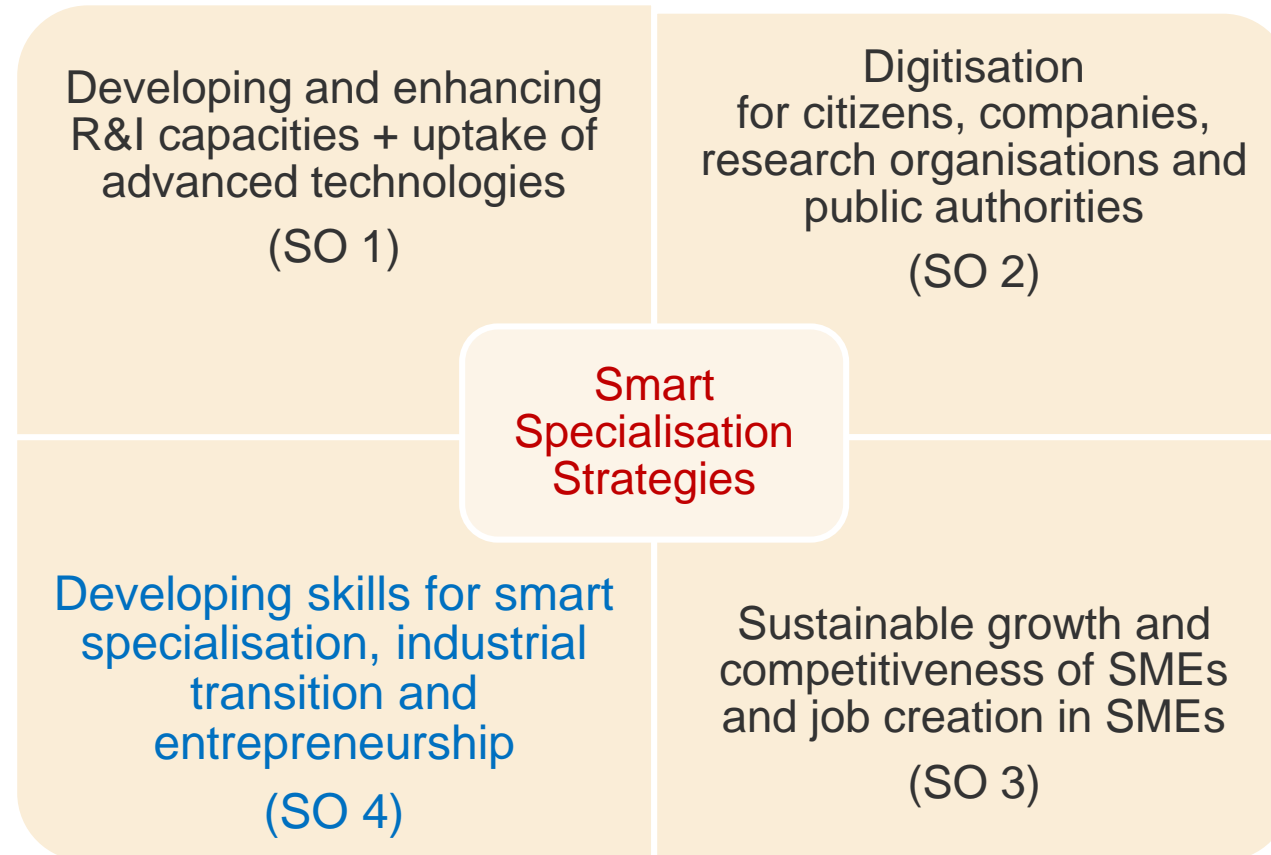
- administrative capacity building
- cooperation outside the programme area



Develop solutions
Tech transfer
Industrial capacities

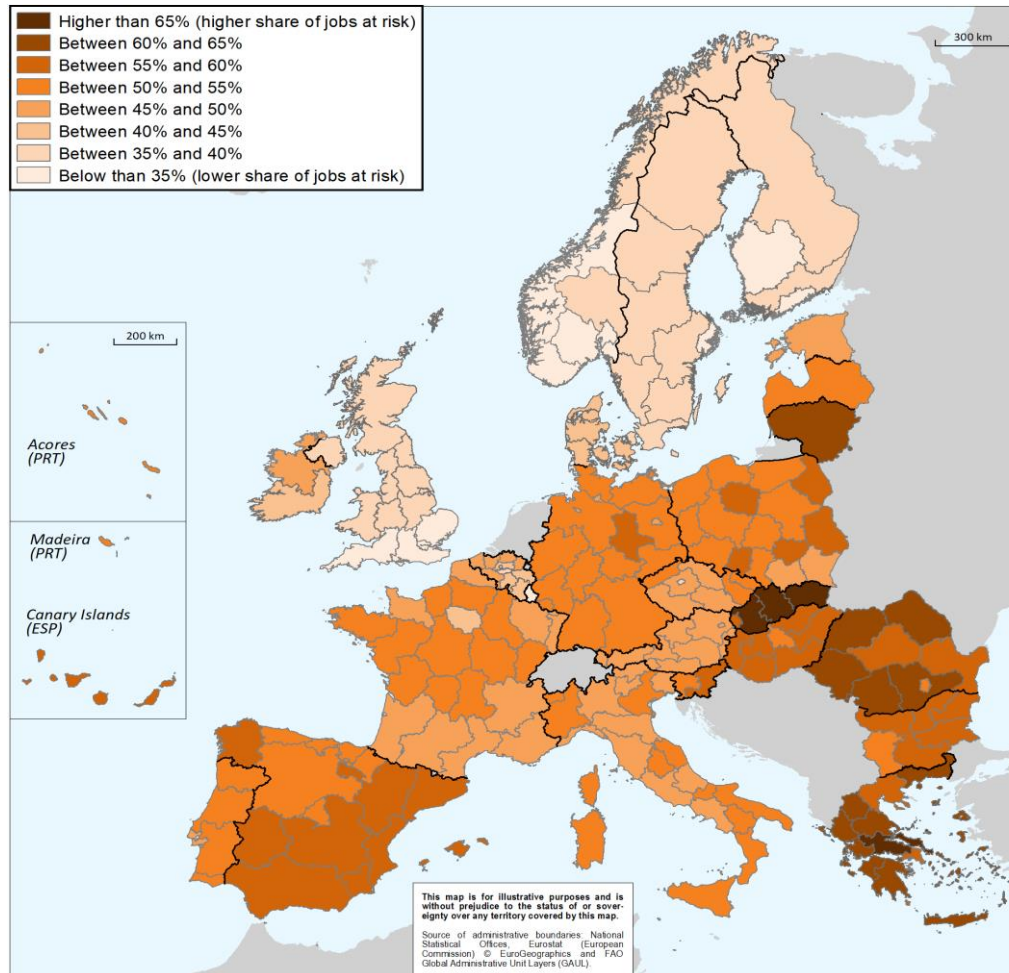
Deploy solutions in public & private sector

Policy Objective 1: A more competitive and smarter Europe



All investments under these specific objectives should be consistent with the smart specialisation strategy and contribute to smart economic transformation.

Key issues for regional skills ecosystems



- The supply of high skills needs to **match the specific needs** of EU territories.
- For the development of skills which will enable the diffusion of innovation and industrial transformation, **closer cooperation between education, business and wider society** is crucial.
- Skill development should be considered as integral part of national or regional **smart specialisation strategies**.

Investment priorities under PO1

- ERDF investments under PO1-SO4 (development of skills...) should **focus on the smart specialisation priority areas** selected at national or regional level.
- The following types of actions can be supported:
 - Innovation management in SMEs
 - **Specific training and up/reskilling for smart specialisation areas at all levels within firms, with the need to address the digital, green and industrial transitions**
 - Promotion of entrepreneurship skills
 - Strengthening the Integration of education and training institutions in technology diffusion ecosystems
 - Skills development for higher education and research institutions to deepen their cooperation with economic operators

Project example 2014-2020

Growth-oriented competence development (Denmark)

- Goal: provide SMEs in robotics, steel making and food industries with skilled manpower
- Establishment of industry academies which will carry out growth-oriented competence development for 200 companies
- Expected effects (2 years after end of project): increased level of competence for ~740 people, ~300 new jobs created
- Total eligible costs: 6,7 m€ - EU support (ESF): 3,4 m€

Policy Objective 4: A More social and inclusive Europe – implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights

2014-2020: 6.9 billion EUR for education and vocational training

2021-2027: Support to vocational education and training will remain primarily under PO4.

ERDF Specific Objective 4.2: Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and life-long learning **through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training**

PO4: types of ERDF investments

Examples of actions to support skills in 2021-2027 under PO4 :

- Modernised VET infrastructure and/or equipment aimed at re-up/skilling people in order to secure their life-long learning, employability and adaptation to labor market changes.
- Higher education infrastructure and/or equipment
- Training centres where teachers and trainers, including work-based trainers, can improve their competences.

ERDF project example 2014-2020

Vocational school in Lublin, Poland

Objective: increase access to and improve the quality of vocational and educational options

Supported actions:

- construction and equipment for specialized classrooms to simulate real working conditions
- construction of roads
- installation of sanitary and electrical systems



Accessing the funds

► Where do I apply for regional funds?

You should apply for regional funding to the **authority managing** the relevant regional programme. That body will evaluate your project and decide whether to grant funding.

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/managing-authorities/

► Who can apply for regional funds?

Potential beneficiaries include public bodies, some private sector organisations (especially small businesses), universities, associations, NGOs. **Foreign firms** with a base in the region covered by the relevant operational programme can also apply, provided they meet European **public procurement rules**.

Contact your **managing authority** for more information on who can apply in your region.

In most cases, funding is granted to **projects**, so you need to develop a project to be eligible for funding, which you will then receive at different stages of the process.

► Is my project eligible?

Your project application must meet the **selection criteria** and **investment priorities** of your **regional programme**.

You will have to follow the **application procedures** of the relevant managing authority. Some have an ongoing procedure, others accept applications at certain times only (calls for proposals). See the **website** of your managing authority for details.

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/accessing-funds/

Thank you!



**European
Commission**