



Standpoint on the future of EU regional policy

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A conference on cohesion policy and territorial
development: Make use of the territorial potential

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Key policy questions

- Mission and goals of cohesion policy
- Policy effectiveness
- Policy delivery: efficiency and simplicity

What goals should cohesion policy pursue?

Mission: Treaty commitment to economic, social and territorial cohesion (Article 174)

Policy goals

- Enhance competitiveness and employment at regional level
- Facilitate growth in lagging areas
- Foster integration across borders

How to enhance policy effectiveness?

- Concentration of the policy
- Stronger focus on performance and results
- High-level political debate on effectiveness
- Increased policy coherence
- More efficient and simpler management and control systems

What themes for concentration?

- Strengthen the knowledge base for growth
- Enhance conditions for a connective and green economy
- Promote employment and social cohesion

How to focus more on results?

- Improve monitoring and evaluation systems
- Strengthen conditionality within the policy
- Link payments to results
- Make core indicators obligatory
- Make evaluation plans obligatory
- High-level political debate on effectiveness

How to enhance policy coherence?

- Enhance policy integration at EU level
- Establish a Single Strategic Framework
- Align funding instruments
- Increase flexibility to support ESF-type of actions by ERDF and vice versa
- Envisage merging ERDF and Cohesion Fund
- Include axis 3 and 4 of EAFRD in cohesion policy framework

How to ensure simpler and more efficient policy delivery?

- Greater differentiation
- Smoother financial flows
- Harmonize eligibility rules
- Review co-financing
- Adjust the de-commitment rule
- Review the verification of additionality
- Increase the role of the private sector