

Europe 2020 Strategy and territorial cohesion: a closer look at the system

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RSA WORKSHOP *EU Cohesion Policy: Focus on the Territorial Dimension*

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- Why this subject?
- My hypothesis
- 'Analysing the system'
- My research question
- Findings and initial thoughts

hypothesis

The way the objective of alignment to the Europe 2020 strategy is translated into the regulatory framework, works, in some cases, counter the objective of territorial cohesion as defined by the regulatory framework.

Europe 2020 strategy

1) I looked at the way this objective is translated into the regulations, using the regulations, guidances and reports from the Commission.

GUIDANCE FICHE FOR DESK OFFICERS
EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY (CSRs AND EUROPEAN SEMESTER)
VERSION 2 – 18/09/2014

RELEVANT PROVISIONS IN THE LEGISLATION

Regulation	Article
Common Provisions Regulation No 1303/2013	<p>For the EAFRD, EMFF, ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund: Preamble: Paragraphs 2, 13, 20, 32, 35, 52, 58, 63</p> <p>Article 2: Definitions Article 4: General principles Article 9: Thematic objectives Article 10: Common Strategic Framework Article 15: Content of the partnership agreement Article 16: Adoption and amendment of the partnership agreement Article 18: Thematic concentration Article 23: Measures linking effectiveness of ESI Funds to sound economic governance Article 27: Content of programmes Article 29: The procedure for adoption of programmes Article 30: Amendments of programmes Article 50: Implementation reports Article 52: Progress report Article 54: General provisions Article 55: Ex ante evaluation Article 57: Ex post evaluation</p> <p>For the ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund: Article 89: Mission and goals Article 96: Content, adoption and amendment of operational programmes under the Investment for growth and jobs goal Article 121: Modulation of the co-financing rates</p>
ESF Regulation No 1304/2013	<p>Recitals (3) and (13). Article 2: Mission Article 3: Scope of support Article 4: Consistency and thematic concentration</p>
ERDF Regulation No 1301/2013	<p>Article 2: Tasks of the ERDF Article 3: Scope of support from the ERDF Article 4: Thematic concentration Article 5: Investment priorities</p>
CF Regulation No 1300/2013	<p>Article 2: Scope of support from the Cohesion Fund Article 4: Investment priorities</p>

This is a draft document based on the new ESI Funds Regulations published in OJ 347 of 20 December 2013 and on the most recent version of the relevant Commission's draft implementing and delegated acts. It may still require review to reflect the content of these draft legal acts once they are adopted.

perfectly aligned..

- 11 thematic objectives
- Concentration of funding
- Intervention logic in the programmes
 - 1) analyse challenges
 - 2) a strategic approach – funding
 - 3) chose thematic objectives
 - 4) design a specific objective - what change?
 - 5) measure result - indicators and targets

Territorial Cohesion

RELEVANT PROVISIONS IN THE LEGISLATION

Regulation	Articles
Common Provisions Regulation (N° 1303/2013)	Article 2 – Definitions Article 15 - Content of the Partnership Agreement Article 16 - Adoption and amendment of the Partnership Agreement Article 27 - Content of programmes Article 29 - Procedure for the adoption of programmes Articles 32 to 35- Community-led local development Article 36 – Integrated territorial investment Article 96 – Content, adoption and amendment of operational programmes under the Investment for growth and jobs goal Annex I – Common Strategic Framework
ERDF Regulation (N° 1301/2013)	Article 7 – Sustainable urban development Article 10 – Areas with natural or demographic handicaps Article 11 – Northernmost regions with very low population density Article 12 – Outermost regions
ESF Regulation (N° 1304/2013)	Article 3- Scope of support (CLLD) Article 12 – Specific provisions on the treatment of particular territorial features
EAFRD Regulation (N° 1305/2013)	Articles 42 to 44 - LEADER
EMFF Regulation (still under negotiation on date)	Articles 58-66
European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) Regulation (N° 1299/2013)	Article 8 – Content, adoption and amendment of cooperation programmes Article 10 - Community-led local development Article 11 - Integrated territorial investment

2) I did the same for this objective

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Combine ESI funds into integrated packages which are tailor-made to fit specific territorial needs (Recital 18 CPR)

- Specific provisions (ITI, CLLD, SUD)
 - Territorial strategy
 - 5% earmarking
 - multi-thematic implementation
 - delegation

 - Framed in the intervention logic
 - Analyse challenges and potential
 - How to best achieve the Europe 2020 strategy?
 - chose thematic objectives
 - chose the appropriate delivery mechanism
- .. this all comes back in 'templates'

An elaborated system is in place



Thematic dimension: **Concentration on Europe 2020 priorities**

Smart growth

- Research & Innovation
- ICT
- SME

Sustainable growth

- Low-carbon
- Resource-efficiency
- Risk-prevention
- Transport

Inclusive growth

- Employment
- Social inclusion
- Education

Territorial dimension: **Integrated strategies and actions**



Instruments



Research question

Under which circumstances do the objective of alignment to the Europe 2020 strategy work against the objective of territorial cohesion as defined by the regulatory framework?

A closer look does reveal some tensions

- *Concentration versus multi-thematic integration*

The case of the Netherlands

- *Multi-thematic approach versus non-aligned funding rules*
- *Measuring thematic objectives but not multi-thematic ones*

Benefits may come later .. and may be hard to measure

COSTS

- Kick start
- Capacity building
- Coordination and conflict resolution



BENEFITS

- Time savings (resilience, better strategic alignment, synergies)
- Leverage effect
- Positive externalities (e.g. new legislation, policy change, behavioural change, trust and social capital)



Some post 2020 ideas..

- align ESI funds fully.. or provide incentives
- set thresholds for an integrated approach
- make objectives not thematic - territorial keys
- concentrate funding geographically