

The Agenda for Cohesion Policy in 2019-2024: Key issues for the REGI Committee

Research for REGI - C Mendez, J Bachtler and I McMaster

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Structure of the Presentation

- 1. Study objectives**
- 2. Key issues for REGI Committee**
- 3. Recommendations**

Study Objectives

- **Overview of key issues - REGI Areas of Competence**
- **Critical analysis of wider themes of relevance**
- **Position of EP and other actors**
- **Recommendations**

1. Strategic Framework

A strategic planning deficit

- Europe 2020 and CSF discontinued
- Towards a sectoral and spatially-blind co-funding instrument
- Consequences for strategic planning within and across programmes

RELEVANT EC PRIORITIES (GENERAL OBJECTIVES)	CONTRIBUTION THROUGH FUNDING (SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES)	NON-FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS (EXAC, CSRS, LEVERAGING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT, ...)
1. Jobs, Growth and Investment	TO1: RTD and innovation TO3: competitiveness of SMEs TO6: protection of environment, resource efficiency/circular economy TO7: sustainable transport TO8: employment and labour mobility TO9: social inclusion TO10: education, skills and lifelong learning TO11: institutional capacity and effective PA	ExAC on: Research and Innovation/smart specialisation SME/Small Business Act Water, waste and EIA/SEA legislation "Investment Challenges Box" Ad hoc initiatives addressing specific development needs (e.g. Lagging Regions, Regions in industrial transition)
2. Digital Single Market	TO2: information and communication technologies	ExAC on: Strategic policy framework for digital growth Next generation Network Plans
3. Energy Union and Climate	TO4: shift towards low-carbon economy TO5: climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management TO7: smart energy infrastructure	ExAC on: Smart energy distribution, storage and transmission systems Energy efficiency Cogeneration Renewable energy Risk assessments
4. Internal Market	Support to the development of the Single Market, to the strengthening of European industrial base and to the less developed MS, notably through spending under ESIF thematic objectives 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 Territorial cooperation Outermost Regions IPA	ExAC on: Public Procurement State Aid Comprehensive plans for transport investments Smart Specialisation Strategies Macroregional Strategies Cross-Border Review / Boosting EU Border Regions
8. Migration	Integration through: TO8: employment and labour mobility TO9: social inclusion TO10: education, skills and lifelong learning Urban Innovative Actions IPA Transfer to EU Trust Fund for Syria	Urban Agenda Support to MS in identifying possible scope for assistance through ERDF

1. Strategic Framework

EP Recommendation:

Encourage a more strategic approach

- Across EU policies
- To ensure cohesion implications are taken into account
- Beyond operational/technical
Territorial Impact Assessment



2. Coherence of the Funds

- Weaker coherence between ERDF and ESF+
- Separation of Rural Development Fund
- Encouragement of 'one-way' transfer to directly managed instruments



- Weakening of place-based policy approach?
- Less incentive to work together across sectors?
- Additional administrative burden for integrated territorial development?
- Reinforcement of silo-thinking?

EP Recommendations: Reintegration of EAFRD in CPR, resist contribution to other Funds, genuine integration under Policy Objective 5

3. Partnership

Effective or efficient partnership?

Council only wants to: *“implement a partnership with the involvement of relevant partners in accordance with [the code of conduct] taking into account specificities of the Funds”*

EP recommendation: pursue *‘fully-fledged effective partnership’* for PA and OPs, with:

- regional, local, urban and other public authorities,
- economic and social partners
- relevant bodies representing civil society such as environmental partners, NGOs and other specific bodies research institutions and universities, where appropriate

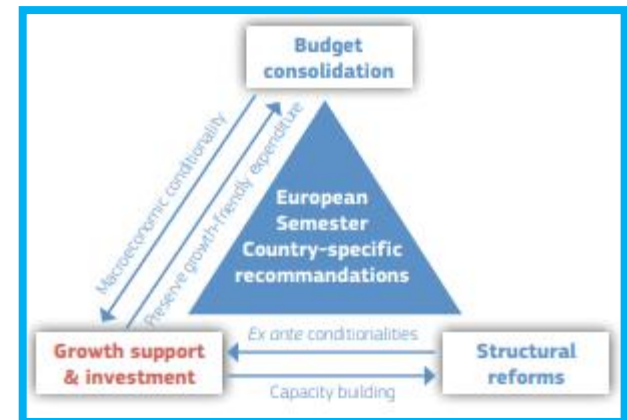


Also, scope for COM to amend the code of conduct on partnership and report each year to Council and EP on implementation of principle

4. Economic Governance

Increased influence on policy

- European Semester / CSRs
- Structural Reform Support Service
- Conditionality



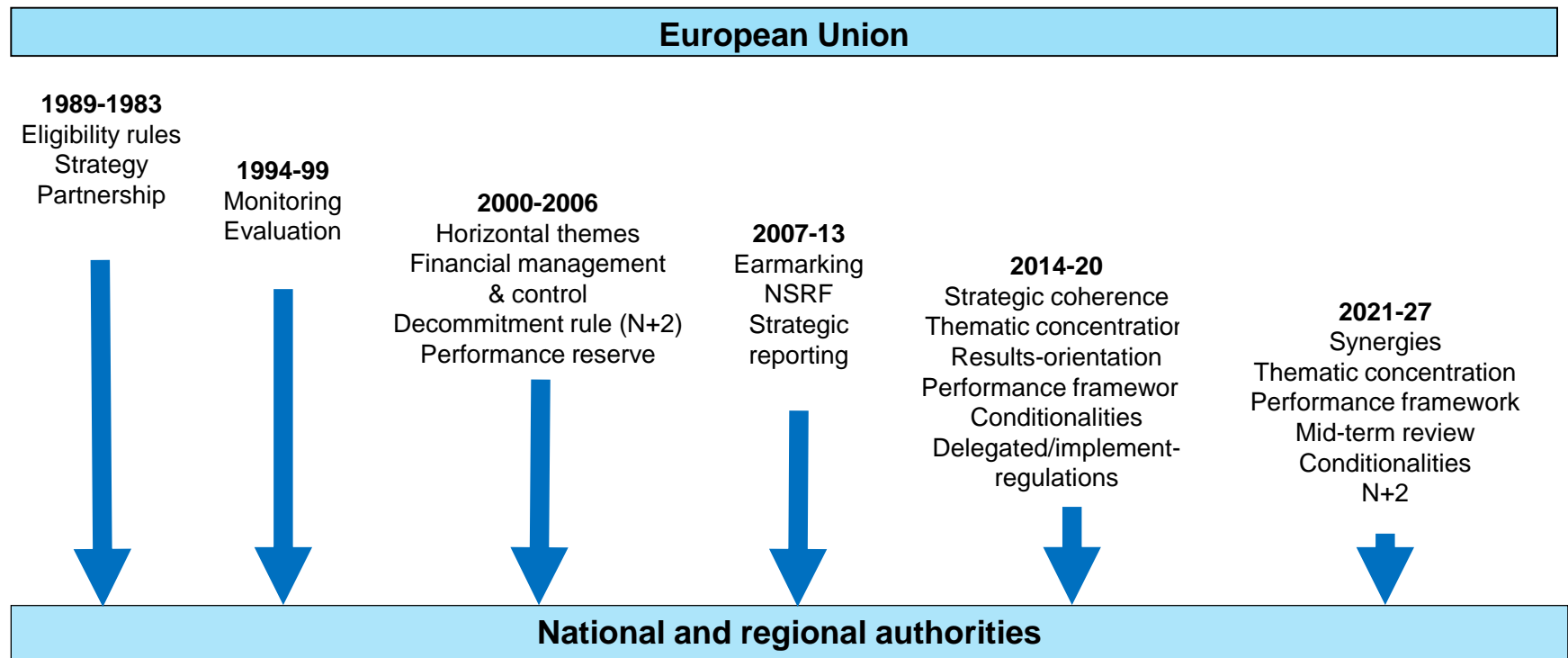
EP recommendation: Territorialise economic governance

- Country Reports' Investment Priorities (Annex D)
- Structural Reforms design and delivery
- Yet, EU & national economic policies should take cohesion into account (Art.175, TFEU)

5. Performance v Simplification

Evolution of Cohesion Policy Rules 1989 – 2020

Major governance challenge – 30 years of ‘layering’ of rules



5. Performance v Simplification

Improvements in compliance,
performance and visibility of results

But costly administratively and to
reputation

EP Recommendation:
Pursue simplification for beneficiaries
+ managing authorities/bodies



6. Citizen engagement

Cohesion policy communication is an idea whose time has come

EP Recommendation:

Greater priority and creative thinking is needed

- EP as champion of citizen-focused approach
- Give people a direct say through democratic innovations



Thank you for your attention!

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