

EUROPE'S BUDGET

Cohesion at the core of EU's future

JULY 2025

Cohesion Policy is one of the pillars of the EU budget for the period 2028-2034. From building transport and energy infrastructure, supporting innovative small and medium-sized enterprises, to supporting sustainable urban and rural development initiatives, Cohesion Policy will invest in regions all over the EU and will leave no one behind.

Why is this a priority?



Despite progress, 29% of the EU's population or around 130 million people still live in regions with GDP per capita below 75% of the EU average



To make sure every citizen has opportunities to thrive in the place they call home



To let every region and citizen contribute to and benefit from the prosperity and opportunities brought by the EU's Single Market



To harness the potential of each region to build a stronger EU



What is the Commission proposing?

- Support to all regions, and a high level of funding for cohesion
- Support for cohesion will be delivered through National and Regional Partnership Plans bringing key EU funding tools under one roof
- Concentration of support to less developed regions: A minimum amount is safeguarded for less developed regions
- Provisions for targeted measures under the National and Regional Partnership Plans for cities, rural areas, eastern border regions, islands, and outermost regions
- Synergies with other policies to maximise the impact of each euro invested
- A more flexible Cohesion Policy better equipped to respond to crises and emerging priorities, while
 maintaining a long-term focus, with fewer thematic constraints, allowing regions to tailor interventions to
 their specific needs
- An approach based on shared management, partnership and multi-level governance with regional authorities fully involved in the design and implementation of plans

What does it mean in financial terms?



Around **EUR 450 billion** will be available for economic, social and territorial cohesion, including fisheries and rural communities



A minimum of EUR 218 billion secured for less developed regions, with a requirement for Member States to allocate funds to regions



The current European Solidarity Fund gets a tripled budget of EUR 20 billion within the Facility for Union Actions



The current Interreg programme for territorial cooperation will receive a higher budget of EUR 10 billion



Additional funding will be available from the EU Facility under the EUR 11.5 billion support for Union Actions including cities, inter-regional innovation and cross-border projects



Differentiated co-financing rates based on each region's level of development



How will the budget make a difference in this area?

- Cohesion is integrated with other funding programmes, amplifying its impact
- A single rulebook with other funding programmes, reducing red tape and simplifying access to funding for beneficiaries
- The National and Regional Partnership Plans will translate EU priorities into concrete, place-based actions – tailored for all types of territories

