



NFP4Health

Internal document

TRAINING on the European Structural and Investment Funds - Focus on Health



This presentation is part of the action "NFP4Health" which has received funding from the European Union's Health Programme (2014-2020) under grant agreement No 101035965.

D6.2 Training Minute

Deliverable lead partner	PROMIS
Contributing partner(s)	ACRONYM(S)
Work Package	WP6
Deliverable type	Internal Report
Contractual delivery date	30.05.2023
Actual delivery date	30.05.2023
Dissemination level	Confidential
Version	1.00



ABSTRACT

The minute presents a summary of the contents elaborated during the training on the European Structural and Investments Funds - Focus on Health.

STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

This deliverable contains original unpublished work except where clearly indicated otherwise. Acknowledgement of previously published material and of the work of others has been made through appropriate citation, quotation or both.

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The webinar focus has been the Cohesion policy, which is the main investment policy of the EU, even if it's not commonly known. The legal framework is defined in art. 174 of the Treaty on the functioning of the EU.

In order to promote the harmonious development of the Union as a whole, the Union develops and continues its action aimed at strengthening its economic, social and territorial cohesion. In particular, the Union aims to reduce the gap between the levels of development of the different regions and the backwardness of the least favored regions. Among the regions concerned, particular attention is paid to rural areas, areas affected by industrial transition and regions with severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps, such as the northernmost regions with very low population density and island, cross-border and mountain regions.

The evolution of cohesion policy from 1957 to date has been presented. Under the umbrella of cohesion policy, the first EU fund, namely European Social Fund (ESF) was created in 1958, but no real regulatory source existed until the Lisbon Treaty in 2007 introduced an ordinary legislative procedure with significant decision-making powers for the European Parliament. The concentration of some objectives for "smart, sustainable and inclusive growth" has been the aim of the Europe 2020 Strategy, defined in 2010. Now, from 2018, we start speaking about Programming Period 2021-2027 and the key words to be followed are simplification of procedure and increase in the effectiveness of investments.

The principles of EU cohesion policy, namely: additionality, focus on the most relevant needs, programming on the basis of a multi-year horizon, complementarity of the EU intervention in areas that are not within an exclusive competence and partnership between the EU Commission, authorities at national regional and local levels and economic and social subjects, on the basis of consultation have been introduced.

The objectives of the cohesion policy have been translated into regional and horizontal ones. In the new programming period, the main European structural funds have been presented, namely ERDF (to foster the economic and employment growth), ESF+ (for investing in people, sustain employment and create equitable and social inclusive society), JFT (aimed at achieving the climate neutrality by 2050), FC (to provide financial contributions to environmental and trans-European network projects in the field of transport infrastructure (Article 177 TFEU) in member states with a gross national income (GNI) per capita of less than 90 percent of the EU-27 average), EMFAF, at national level there are customized funds supporting the cohesion policy.

The EU regulatory framework defining the objectives and financial instruments for intervention for the new 2021-2027 programming cycle is set out in Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of June 24, 2021, which lays down common provisions on eight European Funds, including those specifically earmarked for cohesion policy. The overall strategic framework for each cycle is defined by the overall guidance document, currently called the Partnership Agreement, which frames the programming carried out at the national and regional levels.



In the new programming period 2021-2027 a number of improvements have been introduced: Support to EU priorities: 5 policy objectives focused on key objectives and thematic concentration on those most relevant for a competitive and future-proof Europe

- Climate targets: weighted climate and environmental contribution of investments, minimum targets for funds, climate adjustment mechanism
- Greater empowerment of local, urban & territorial authorities in the management of the funds: dedicated policy objective implemented only through territorial and local development strategies
- Simplification: The new cohesion policy introduces one set single of rules for the eight Funds and a significant reduction in the amount of secondary legislation.

This entails notably:

- Lighter and more frequent reporting
- Lighter controls for programmes: sharp reduction of management verifications, "single audit principle", proportionate arrangements for audits
- Faster delivery: extended possibility to use simplified cost options (SCOs) and financing not linked to costs schemes
- End of Commission approval for major projects
- No more designation of management and control bodies
- Creating conditions for success: streamlined and clear enabling conditions to be respected throughout the whole programming period for reimbursement from the Union budget.
- Flexible programming adjusted to new challenges and emerging needs: allocation of flexibility amount only after mid term review of socio-economic situation and possible new challenges
- Reinforced visibility and communication provisions: requirements for beneficiaries and operations of strategic importance

A detailed comparison of 2014-2020 versus 2021-2027 programming period with regards to priorities, conditions for success, environment and climate, mid term review, performance framework, partnership agreement, transfers, monitoring, communication and visibility, financial support from the funds, management and control, evaluation, synergies.

With regards to health and social opportunities, ESF+ in combination with ERDF funds contributes to a more social and inclusive EU through six specific objectives focused on: •employment •education, training and lifelong learning •socioeconomic inclusion of marginalised groups and of third-country nationals •healthcare and long-term care •culture and sustainable tourism contributing to economic and social development.

As a novelty, the ERDF under this policy objective can directly support the culture and tourism sectors to foster socioeconomic development, social inclusion and social innovation in regions.

Finally several projects funded by the European Structural and Investment Funds have been showcased,

It has been pointed out that for the first time, the 2014-2020 legal frameworks of Horizon2020 and the European Structural and Investment Funds included a specific request to establish synergies between the two programmes. 3 forms of synergies have been outlined and discussed:



- Seal of excellence
- Cumulative funding
- Support to partnership
- Transfer to Horizon Europe

The Kohesio database has been presented as a comprehensive knowledge database that offers easy and transparent access to up-to-date information on projects and beneficiaries co-funded by EU Cohesion policy, during the 2014-2020 programming period. EU Cohesion Policy supports hundreds of thousands of projects across regions and cities in the European Union.

