

## Questionnaire on the future of Cohesion Policy

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.



**The survey will be open until 30th of June 2023**

### Who we are

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The new Cohesion Alliance (CA) is a joint initiative of the European Committee of the Regions and leading European territorial associations, aiming to promote a strong cohesion policy beyond 2027. In order to develop a sound proposal on the future of cohesion policy, the CA invites local and regional governments, member states, social partners, civil society organisations and citizens to take part in a large consultation exercise.

It is planned to feed the results into the preparation of a joint position of the CA on the future of cohesion policy, envisaged for early 2024, ahead of the 9th Cohesion Report and the European elections.

### About you

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\* Country

IT - Italy

\* Function/Mandate :

Others

\* If you selected "Others", please specify

Local Public authority

## Questionnaire on the future of Cohesion Policy

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### 1. Cohesion as an overall objective of the EU

\* The promotion of, social, economic, and territorial cohesion is a cross-cutting objective of the European Union aiming to improve the quality of life of all citizens and to offer every citizen and every region the chance of reaping the benefits of the European Single Market.

With which of the following statements do you agree:

- Cohesion is an expression of solidarity within the EU. All EU policies should support this objective.
- Given the recent challenges and the ongoing crises, supporting cohesion is more important than ever.
- Cohesion is an outdated concept that is not relevant anymore.

### 2. Do no harm to cohesion

\* With which of the following statement do you agree:

- Each EU policy should make sure that it does not hamper cohesion.
- The European Commission should provide territorial impact assessments for all relevant EU policy proposals to avoid negative effects on Europe's municipalities and regions.
- Territorial impacts cannot be assessed and the obligation should be ignored.

### 3. Cohesion Policy objectives

\* Cohesion Policy currently supports long-term investments supporting sustainable development, economic progress, job creation, and business competitiveness in all EU regions and cities.

With which of the following statements do you agree?

- Cohesion Policy should remain a long-term policy to promote social, economic and territorial cohesion.
- Cohesion Policy should also provide sufficient flexibility to address unforeseen effects, without losing sight of the long-term objectives.

- Cohesion Policy should mainly focus on addressing unforeseen shocks and crises.

## 4. Cohesion Policy role at EU level

- \* Cohesion policy is currently the EU's main investment policy supporting the priorities of the EU, notably the European Green Deal, the digital agenda and the European Pillar of Social Rights.

With which of the following statements do you agree?

- Cohesion policy should remain the main investment policy at European level to support EU priorities.
- There should be a clear strategy at EU level to avoid competition and overlaps between Cohesion Policy and other EU investment policies and funds.
- Cohesion policy should address a smaller number of priorities at EU level.

## 5. Coverage

Cohesion Policy currently covers all regions and cities in the European Union.

With which of the following statement do you agree:

- Cohesion Policy should continue to support all regions in Europe, and the biggest support should be given to those lagging behind.
- Cohesion Policy should be limited to those regions lagging behind. More developed regions should not receive any support from Cohesion Policy.
- Cohesion Policy should only focus on the Member States lagging behind (Lagging behind regions in more developed Member States should be supported by the respective Member State).

## 6. Territorial focus

- \* Cohesion Policy includes specific provisions to address the territorial diversity within the European Union.

With which of the following statement do you agree:

- More flexibility should be provided within Cohesion Policy to best adapt the policy to specific regional challenges.
- More focus and budget should be provided to develop European Territorial Cooperation and to tackle cross-border challenges.
- More focus should be provided to regions beset by permanent and geographic handicaps.
- More focus should be provided to regions more vulnerable to catastrophes and different hazards (climate change, migrations...).
- More focus should be given to the sub-regional level (i.e. cities and municipalities).

## 7. Area of focus

- \* Cohesion Policy is all about providing structural change to help municipalities and regions address challenges such as the climate crisis and the green transition, demographic change or digitalisation.

Which of the following challenges should Cohesion Policy address in the future?

- Green transition
- Social inclusion and fighting poverty
- Innovation
- Climate change adaptation
- Demographic change
- Energy
- Skills and lifelong learning
- Digital transition
- Housing

## 8. Partnership and multi-level governance

\* Cohesion policy is the only EU policy where the principles of partnership and multi-level governance are essential elements of the policy. This means that local and regional authorities as well as social partners and civic society are involved in the preparation and implementation of the policy.

Which of the following statements do you agree:

- The principles of partnership and multi-level governance have proved to be key elements to ensure the ownership of the policy by local and regional authorities, social partners and civic society.
- The principles of partnership and multi-level governance should be strengthened in the future so that the policy can focus better on addressing local and regional needs.
- Other EU policies and funding facilities should also apply the principles of partnership and multi-level governance particularly when they address local/regional needs.
- Partnership and multi-level governance make implementation of Cohesion Policy more complicated without much added value and should be scrapped.

## 9. Implementation of Cohesion Policy

\* Cohesion policy is often criticised for being too complicated from an administrative point of view and too slow to respond to territorial needs.

Which of the following statements do you agree?

- Transparency, the rule of law and the principles of partnership and multi-level governance should not be compromised upon.
- Simpler rules should be introduced by focusing more on impact and policy results and less on the administration of the funds.
- Less controls should be done and less red tape asked for regions with a low error rate during 2014-2020 programming period.
- There should be a simpler framework in the future for all Cohesion Policy funds to increase efficiency and avoid overlaps with other (centrally managed) funds.
- The current system of implementation is fine and should not be changed.

## 10. One reform idea

Out of the following list, please pick the most important issue to change Cohesion policy in the future:

- Cohesion Policy should be more visible to citizens.
- Cohesion Policy should be simplified.
- Cohesion Policy should spend more quickly.
- Cohesion Policy should support structural reforms.
- Cohesion Policy is fine as it is.

## Your views on improving the Cohesion Policy

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Now it is your turn to tell us, how do you think the Cohesion Policy should be improved :

*2000 character(s) maximum*

Cohesion Policy should focus, assess and analyse the direct impact to citizens. Rules should be harmonized and simplified in order to be more flexible with respect to EU Priorities and their changes.

\* Would you like to sign up for the newsletter and stay up to date with all the activities of the Cohesion Alliance and the latest development on Cohesion Policy ?

Yes

No

**Thank you very much for your input!**

If you are not already a Cohesion Alliance member, please e-mail [cohesionalliance@cor.europa.eu](mailto:cohesionalliance@cor.europa.eu) to be regularly informed about our actions.

### Contact

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