



European
Commission

COHESION POLICY AT THE CENTRE OF **A GREEN AND DIGITAL RECOVERY**

#EUSolidarity #StrongerTogether

Cohesion policy will be crucial to ensuring a balanced recovery following the coronavirus crisis, fostering convergence and making sure no one is left behind.

Following the initial crisis response already delivered, Cohesion policy will now focus on:

- ensuring **crisis repair**, so that citizens and companies weather the storm
- creating sound foundations for **recovery**, by promoting convergence, restoring growth and employment as quickly as possible, as well as a resilient economy and society in the long-term, based on the twin objectives of a green and digital transition.

1 REACT-EU

Initiative to continue and extend the **crisis response and repair measures** that cohesion policy has already started delivering through the changes brought by the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative, while enlarging the scope to cover green, digital, and growth-enhancing investments.



How?

By **adding €55 billion** to the ongoing 2014-2020 cohesion policy programmes. This will provide vital, rapid and additional support to Member States and regions most impacted by the coronavirus outbreak.



Amounts come **on top of the proposed allocations for the 2021-2027 period** and will be distributed between EU countries according to their level of prosperity and the socio-economic effects of the crisis;



Exceptionally **not broken down per region or sector**, to allow targeting the areas (geographical or sectoral) where support is most needed;



High level of pre-financing (50%), so that sufficient liquidity is available to ensure that support is delivered quickly in the real economy (to help people and enterprises);



Additional amounts **can be financed entirely from the EU budget**, to ensure that a possible lack to match this with national co-financing is not an obstacle for the use of EU support.

This will:

	Continue to support the reinforcement of crisis response capacities in health care .
	Make a concrete difference in lives and jobs of people affected by the crisis, as the crisis repair measures will contribute to supporting job creation and maintenance, including through short-time work schemes and support for the self-employed, and providing urgent and much needed support directly to SMEs.
	Enhance support to infrastructure providing basic services to citizens .
	Make Member State economies more resilient and sustainable in the crisis repair stage, by opening up for green, digital and growth-enhancing investments, bridging the gap between the current and next long-term EU budget.
	Top up the amounts that are available in the 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 EU funding periods.

2 COHESION

In addition to quick crisis response and repair measures, we also have to look at the longer term. Post-2020 Cohesion policy will therefore focus on support to a swift recovery, paving the way for long-term economic development and competitiveness of the EU, while making sure no one is left behind, with an emphasis on the least developed regions.



What's new (compared to the 2018 proposal)?



Reinforced focus on economic competitiveness through research and innovation, digital transition, the European Green Deal agenda and the promotion of the European Pillar of Social Rights;



Higher flexibility and reactivity: additional flexibility for Member States to transfer resources among EU Funds, at any point in time of the funding period;



Making sure that Cohesion policy is better equipped to respond to unexpected circumstances;



Further flexibility to enable phasing of projects, to give EU Member States more time to complete operations that aren't finished under the 2014-2020 programmes;



Reinforcing the preparedness of the health systems and better exploiting the potential of culture and tourism;



Reinforcing support to workers and to measures addressing youth employment and child poverty.