



#EURegionsWeek

Glossary



CoR (European Committee of the Regions): the political assembly that represents the voice of regions and cities in the European Union's policymaking. It is composed of 329 members (plus 329 alternates) from all EU countries who have been elected at local or regional level (i.e., regional governors, mayors or regional and local councillors). Its president is [Kata Tüttő](#), Member of Budapest City Council (Hungary). It co-organises #EURegionsWeek together with the European Commission's DG REGIO.

COTER (Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget): One of the six thematic commissions of the CoR. Its chair is Vasco Alves Cordeiro, Member of the Regional Assembly of the Azores (Portugal) and former CoR President.

DG REGIO: [The Directorate-General of the European Commission responsible for regional and urban policy](#). DG REGIO works with EU Member States, regions and other stakeholders to assess needs, to finance investments, and to evaluate the impact of cohesion policy from a long-term EU perspective. It works under the leadership of [Raffaele Fitto](#), European Commission's Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms. Its director-general is Themis Christophidou. It co-organises #EURegionsWeek together with the CoR.

EMFAF (European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund): The fund supports the EU common fisheries policy (CFP), the EU maritime policy and the EU agenda for international ocean governance. It provides support for developing innovative projects ensuring that aquatic and maritime resources are used sustainably.

ERDF (European Regional Development Fund): Together with the ESF+, the ERDF is one of the main Cohesion Policy funds. Its goal is to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion in the EU by correcting imbalances between its regions.

ESF+ (European Social Fund Plus): together with the ERDF, the European Social Fund is one of the main Cohesion Policy funds. This is the EU principal instrument for supporting jobs, improving working conditions, and investing in social affairs.

EU Annual Report on the State of Regions and Cities: Since 2020, [this report](#) by the CoR has provided a snapshot of the most pressing challenges faced by regions and cities across the Union, helping to inform EU policy choices. It is presented during #EURegionsWeek.

Eurobarometer: A series of EU-wide public-opinion surveys conducted regularly on behalf of the EU Institutions and normally published by Eurostat. Eurobarometer surveys cover a wide range of topics, including public perceptions of Cohesion Policy.

Eurostat Regional Yearbook: The [Yearbook](#) gathers statistics on a broad range of topics affecting the EU and its regions.

Interreg: [Interreg programmes](#) support cooperation across national borders to tackle common challenges and find shared solutions. Interreg programmes are part of the EU Cohesion Policy with money coming from the ERDF. Interreg is the only cohesion instrument that also involves non-EU countries, such as Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and Northern Ireland. All programmes with Russia and Belarus were suspended after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2023.

JTF (Just Transition Fund): A fund to cushion the socio-economic consequences of the climate transition in those specific regions that are the most impacted.

Megalizzi – Niedzielski prize: [An annual award](#) that rewards aspiring journalists whose work demonstrates a deep commitment to the EU and its values. The prize honours the memory of Antonio Megalizzi and Bartek Piotr Orent-Niedzielski, young European journalists who passed away after a terrorist attack in Strasbourg in 2018. The ceremony takes place during the #EURegionsWeek.

Mid-term review of Cohesion Policy: A package of modifications to the ongoing cohesion programmes (2021-27), which serves to give Member States and regions the possibility to redirect resources towards investment in defence capabilities and for the competitiveness and strategic autonomy of the EU and in other emerging priorities, including clean industrial deal objectives. The proposal was adopted already by both the European Parliament and the Council of the EU, and published in the EU's official journal, entering into force the day after.

A technical briefing on the mid-term review is part of the #EURegionsWeek media programme.

MFF (Multiannual Financial Framework): It is the long-term budget of the European Union, usually covering a seven-year period. The current one, goes from 2021 to 2027 and worth over €1.2 trillion (or the 1.11% of the EU GNI), to which can be added around €807 billion of NextGenerationEU, for a total of over €2 trillion. On 16 July, the European Commission presented a proposal for the next MFF, which will run from 2028 to 2034. The proposal worth €2 trillion (1.26% EU GNI) and now needs to be negotiated by Member States and be approved by the European Parliament.

OPs (Operational programmes): Detailed plans in which the Member States set out how money from Cohesion Policy will be spent during the programming period. The plans can be specific to a region or reflect a country-wide thematic goal (e.g. environment).

REACT-EU (Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe): This €50.6 billion instrument when the COVID-19 pandemic broke out, to provide additional fresh resources to Cohesion Policy. It constitutes a bridge between the 2014-20 and 2021-27 programming periods.

REGI (European Parliament's Committee on Regional Development): It is chaired by Adrian-Dragoş Benea (Romania).

REPowerEU: [A plan drawn up by the European Commission](#) in May 2022 to rapidly reduce the EU's dependence on Russian fossil fuels and accelerate the green transition. It was launched in May 2022 in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the resulting impacts on energy markets.

RRF (Recovery and Resilience Facility): The key instrument at the heart of the post-pandemic recovery plan [NextGenerationEU](#). The RRF makes available €650 billion in loans (€291 billion) and grants (€359 billion) to all EU countries

SAFE (Support Affordable Energy): Amendment of the rules for the spending of Cohesion Policy funds to allow for the shifting of resources fight the energy crisis. The resources can be redirected to vulnerable households suffering from energy poverty, short time work schemes to maintain jobs and to SMEs. Member States can use up to 10% of its unspent funding to face the sharp increase of energy prices.

STEP (Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform): An instrument launched by the European Commission in June 2023 to reinforce the investments in deep and digital, clean and bio technologies in the EU. Its main objective is to counter the effects of Chinese and American large-scale fiscal policies and subsidy packages. Cohesion Policy is one of the instruments to put STEP into practice.

YEPs (Young Elected Politicians Programme): Created by the CoR in 2019, this is a network of politicians aged 40 or under who hold a mandate at regional or local level. Each year, a new group of Young Elected Politicians (YEPs) is selected to participate in the programme. With a network of almost 1000 young representatives from the EU and its neighbourhood, the YEP programme has become an integral part of the CoR.

Youth4Regions: [the European Commission's programme](#) which helps journalism students and young aspiring journalists to find out what the EU is doing in their region. Over 200 people from across Europe have completed the program since its launch in 2017.

#CohesionAlliance: [The biggest EU-wide coalition campaigning](#) for a strong Cohesion Policy that benefits all regions and cities and leaves no region and no one behind. It was created in October 2017 by the CoR and the leading European associations of cities and regions.