

# Public Consultation on EU funds in the area of Cohesion

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

## Introduction

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[Read the introduction](#)

### Guidance

- **Are you replying as a as an individual in your personal capacity?** If so, please tick the first option under question 1. You will then be invited to enter your personal details and then led directly to questions 27 to 40 which relate to EU funds in the area of cohesion.
- **Are you replying as an entity or in your professional capacity?** If so, please tick the second option under question 1. You will then be invited to enter your personal details as well as information on the entity of behalf of which you are replying and then then led directly to questions 27 – 40 which relate to EU funds in the area of cohesion.
- **In both cases, you may skip the non-mandatory questions and upload a document** (1 MB max) under point 41 and enter any other comment under point 42. Please do not include any personal data in documents submitted in the context of the consultation if you opt for anonymous publication. It is important to read the specific privacy statement for information on how your personal data and contribution will be dealt with.

## About you

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\*1 You are replying

- as an individual in your personal capacity  
 in your professional capacity or on behalf of an organisation

\*8 Respondent's first name

Christine

\*9 Respondent's last name

Le Forestier

\*10 Respondent's professional email address

c.leforestier@fiec.eu

\*11 Name of the organisation

European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC)

\*12 Postal address of the organisation

Avenue Louise 225, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

\*13 Type of organisation

Please select the answer option that fits best.

- Private enterprise
- Professional consultancy, law firm, self-employed consultant
- Trade, business or professional association
- Non-governmental organisation, platform or network
- Research and academia
- Churches and religious communities
- Regional or local authority (public or mixed)
- International or national public authority
- Other

\*16 Please specify the type of organisation.

- Chamber of commerce
- Business organisation
- Trade Union
- Representative of professions or crafts
- Other

\*22 Is your organisation included in the Transparency Register?

If your organisation is not registered, we invite you to register [here](#), although it is not compulsory to be registered to reply to this consultation. [Why a transparency register?](#)

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

\*23 If so, please indicate your Register ID number.

92221016212-42

\*24 Country of organisation's headquarters

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- Other

**\*26 Your contribution,**

Note that, whatever option chosen, your answers may be subject to a request for public access to documents under [Regulation \(EC\) N° 1049/2001](#)

- can be published with your organisation's information** (I consent the publication of all information in my contribution in whole or in part including the name of my organisation, and I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent publication)
- can be published provided that your organisation remains anonymous** (I consent to the publication of any information in my contribution in whole or in part (which may include quotes or opinions I express) provided that it is done anonymously. I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent the publication.

## EU Funds in the area of cohesion

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27 Please let us know whether you have experience with one or more of the following funds and programmes

*at most 6 choice(s)*

- The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- The Cohesion Fund (CF)
- The European Social Fund (ESF)
- The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF)
- The Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD)
- Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)

28 Please let us know to which of the following one or more topics your replies will refer

*at most 3 choice(s)*

- Economic and sustainable development
- Employment, skills and education
- Social inclusion

29 The Commission has preliminarily identified a number of policy challenges which programmes/funds under the policy area of cohesion could address. How important are these policy challenges in your view?

	Very important	Rather important	Neither important nor unimportant	Rather not important	Not important at all	No opinion
a. Promote economic growth in the EU as a whole	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Reduce regional disparities and underdevelopment of certain EU regions	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Address the adverse side-effects of globalisation	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Reduce unemployment, promote quality jobs and support labour mobility	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Promote social inclusion and combat poverty	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Promote common values (e.g. rule of law, fundamental rights, equality and non-discrimination)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

g. Facilitate transition to low carbon and circular economy, ensure environmental protection and resilience to disasters and climate change	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Foster research and innovation across the EU	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Facilitate transition to digital economy and society	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Promote sustainable transport and mobility	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. Promote territorial cooperation (interregional, cross-border, transnational)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. Support education and training for skills and life-long learning	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
m. Improve quality of institutions and administrative capacity	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<p>n. Promote sound economic governance and the implementation of reforms</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p>o. Other (please give degree of importance here and fill in question 30 below)</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

30 If you selected 'Other' in the above question, please specify it here:

200 character(s) maximum

Realisation of transport, energy, digital, water and waste, education and health infrastructure.  
Beyond mobility, Cohesion Policy must ensure access to all EU: territorial cohesion (art. 174 TFEU).

31 To what extent do the current programmes/funds successfully address these challenges?

	To a large extent	To a fairly large extent	To some extent only	Not at all	No opinion
a. Promote economic growth in the EU as a whole	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Reduce regional disparities and underdevelopment of certain EU regions	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Address the adverse side-effects of globalisation	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Reduce unemployment, promote quality jobs and support labour mobility	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Promote social inclusion and combat poverty	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Promote common values (e.g. rule of law, fundamental rights, equality and non-discrimination)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Facilitate transition to low carbon and circular economy, ensure environmental protection and resilience to disasters and climate change	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Foster research and innovation across the EU	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Facilitate transition to digital economy and society	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Promote sustainable transport and mobility	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. Promote territorial cooperation (interregional, cross-border, transnational)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. Support education and training for skills and life-long learning	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
m. Improve quality of institutions and administrative capacity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
n. Promote sound economic governance and the implementation of reforms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
o. Other (please give degree of importance here and fill in question 32 below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

32 If you selected 'Other' in the above question, please specify it here:

200 character(s) maximum



The thematic concentration of the ERDF has had a strong negative impact on the financial support to local transport infrastructure or water / waste networks.

33 To what extent do the current programmes/funds add value, compared to what Member States could achieve at national, regional and/or local levels without EU funds?

- To a large extent
- To a fairly large extent
- To some extent only
- Not at all
- Don't know

34 Please explain how the current programmes/funds can add value compared to what Member States could achieve at national, regional and/or local levels

*1500 character(s) maximum*

Please clearly indicate to which policies, programmes and funds your answers refer.

Many projects which require public investment cannot find it at national level due to scarce resources. The Cohesion policy boosts necessary projects which would not start otherwise. The 7th Cohesion Report has been very clear on this point: Cohesion Policy plays a very strong role in Cohesion countries in terms of public investment. Non-Cohesion countries also benefit from the generated wealth, either directly (e.g. provision of equipments) or indirectly (e.g. higher living standards increase commercial exchanges with these countries).

35 Is there a need to modify or add to the objectives of the programmes/funds in this policy area? If yes, which changes would be necessary or desirable?

*1500 character(s) maximum*

Please clearly indicate to which policies, programmes and funds your answers refer.

The thematic concentration of ESIFs ensures the efficient use of the funds and a greater coherency in terms of objectives. However, there should be a greater flexibility of these themes according to regional / local priorities. In particular, infrastructure (of transport, energy, ICT, water and waste networks...) is vital all over the EU in terms of competitiveness and accessibility. Therefore, the thematic concentration should be flexible enough to take this aspect into account. The Europe 2020 strategy already recognises the importance of infrastructure for growth and competitiveness. This should be translated into concrete investment.

36 To what extent do you consider the following as obstacles which prevent the current programmes /funds from successfully achieving their objectives?

	To a large extent	To a fairly large extent	To some extent only	Not at all	No opinion
a. Complex procedures leading to high administrative burden and delays	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Heavy audit and control requirements	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

c. Available funding does not address the real challenges	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Insufficient administrative capacity to manage programmes	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Insufficient information about funding and selection process	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Lack of flexibility to react to unforeseen circumstances	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Difficulty of combining EU action with other public interventions	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Insufficient synergies between the EU programmes/funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Difficulty to ensure the sustainability of projects when the financing period ends	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Insufficient use of financial instruments	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. Co-financing rates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. Late disbursement of funds / delays in payments to beneficiaries	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
m. Insufficient linkages of the Funds with the EU economic governance and the implementation of structural reforms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
n. Legal uncertainty	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
o. Insufficient ownership	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
p. Insufficient involvement of civil society in design and implementation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
q. Other (please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

37 If you selected 'Other' in the above question, please specify it here:

*1000 character(s) maximum*

An integrated approach - beyond purely sectoral approaches - should be promoted for greater efficiency in the use of the available funds. For this purpose, there should be a closer involvement of business associations and local authorities, for a better design and implementation of the local programmes.

38 To what extent would these steps help to further simplify and reduce administrative burdens for beneficiaries under current programmes/funds?

	To a large extent	To a fairly large extent	To some extent only	Not at all	No opinion
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a. Alignment of rules between EU funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Fewer, clearer, shorter rules	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. More freedom for national authorities to set rules	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. More flexibility of activity once funding is eligible	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. More flexibility of resource allocation to respond to unexpected needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Simplify the ex-ante conditionalities	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. More effective stakeholders' involvement in the programming, implementation and evaluation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Other (please specify below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

39 If you selected 'Other' in the above question, please specify it here:

*1000 character(s) maximum*

Local and regional authorities should be involved more closely in order to define and implement their own priorities, knowing that there are the main public investors at local level.

40 How could synergies among programmes/funds in this area be further strengthened to avoid possible overlaps/duplication? For example, would you consider grouping/merging some programmes/funds?

*1500 character(s) maximum*

Please clearly indicate to which policies, programmes and funds your answers refer.

In order to ensure a real integrated approach of territorial development, it is important to make a coherent distinction between the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) - dedicated to transport, energy and digital infrastructure - and the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs) and Cohesion Fund. They have a distinct role which is also very complementary: the CEF is aimed at realising large transport infrastructure of the Core Network, while the ESIFs and Cohesion Fund should target in priority regional and local projects aimed at linking territories with this Core Network. Therefore, the existence and logic of these various funds should be maintained during the next MFF (post-2020).

## Document upload and final comments

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41 Please feel free to upload a concise document, such as a position paper. The maximum file size is 1MB.

*Please note that the uploaded document will be published alongside your response to the questionnaire which is the essential input to this public consultation. The document is optional and serves as additional background reading to better understand your position.*

42 If you wish to add further information — within the scope of this questionnaire — please feel free to do so here.

*1500 character(s) maximum*

FIEC advocates for an ambitious Cohesion Policy post-2020 which would address all European regions in order to further develop EU's urban and rural territories.  
For this purpose, the dedicated funds and financial instruments should be safeguarded and maintained at least at the same level as it is in the current MFF.

## **Contact**

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