



# The Future of Cohesion Policy and Importance of Strategic planning for European Regions

Marek Teplanský, DG Regional and Urban Policy  
Zagreb, 4 December 2017

# Institutional and policy context

- ❑ **New challenges**
- ❑ **White paper** on the reflection on the future of Europe and way forward (1/3/2017)
- ❑ **Reflection papers:**
  - On the Social Dimension of Europe
  - On harnessing globalization
  - On the deepening of the Economic and Monetary Union
  - On the European Defense
  - **On the Future of EU Finance**
- ❑ Preparation of the next **Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)**
- ❑ **Legislative negotiations** and adoption of legal framework

## Inputs/sources for future policy design

- ❑ **Ex-post evaluation** of 2007-2013 programmes
- ❑ 11 studies to assess **uptake and impact of new elements in 2014-2020 programmes and to prepare policy options** – 7 final reports already available
  - ❑ [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/studies\\_integration/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/studies_integration/)
- ❑ **7th Cohesion Report**
- ❑ **High Level Group on Simplification**
  - ❑ [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/high-level-group-simplification/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/improving-investment/high-level-group-simplification/)

## **Inputs/sources for future policy design**

- Work with other organisations (OECD, World Bank)
- Debates and exchanges with the EU institutions
- Conferences and work on EU Budget focused on Results
- Structured Dialogue with ESI Funds partners at EU level
- Public consultation as part of impact assessment process

# High Level Group on Simplification - Key recommendations

- Alignment of horizontal rules between funds**
- Fewer clearer and shorter rules**
- Genuine subsidiarity and proportionality**
- Stable, but flexible framework**
- Single audit principle**

# Reflection paper on the Future of EU finance

EU added value: What is the EU budget for?

- ❑ **Achieving the objectives set out in the Treaty**  
*CP relevance: economic, social and territorial cohesion*
- ❑ **Providing for public goods of European Dimension**  
*CP relevance: cross border linkages and cooperation*
- ❑ **Helping to uphold European values**  
*CP relevance: reaching out to the most vulnerable groups*

# Reflection paper on the Future of EU finance

Policy options for Cohesion Policy reform:

- More flexibility to respond to emergencies or unexpected challenges
- A smoother transition between programming periods
- A stronger administrative capacity building
- A possible increase in national cofinancing
- Further simplicity through single set of rules
- A possible revision of criteria for allocation

# Overall timeline – key steps

- ❑ Closely connected to the **preparation of the next Multiannual Financial Framework MFF**
- ❑ **Commission proposal + impact assessment** – May 2018
- ❑ MFF followed by sectorial legislation including **Cohesion Policy** – as of June 2018
- ❑ **Legislative negotiations** and adoption of the legal framework
- ❑ **1 January 2021**: Start of new funding period



# What can be done already now to prepare for post-2020?

- Ensure sound and result oriented performance of the current programmes
- Continue to strengthen capacities across all levels of your delivery system
- Learn from peers in other Member States, regions, international organisations
- Understand well sectoral and territorial challenges, set clear priorities and realistic targets and goals

# What can be done already now to prepare for post-2020?

- Strengthen policy development capacities and the quality of governance
- Fully utilise the potential of partnership and participatory decision making – break sectoral and institutional silos
- Continue to improve investment conditions
- Prepare solid and mature project pipeline



European  
Commission

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**