

Regional dimension of innovation in view of programming 2014

**Starting points for 2014
From the 5th Cohesion Report to a new Cohesion Policy**

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- Strategic Programming
- Performance orientation and
Conditions
- Simplification

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A wide consultative process in partnership with Member States

- Public Consultation on the 5th Cohesion Report
- Cohesion Forum
- General Affairs Council of 21/2/2011
- High Level Group on the Future of the Policy
- Task Force on Conditionality
- EP: REGI Committee and its Working Party
- Stakeholder on Simplification
- Should there be any surprise?

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A strategic approach for Cohesion Policy

- New and Strategic elements
 - Alignment with EU 2020
 - the “3 G’s”
 - Common Strategic Framework
 - Partnership Contract
 - agreed in partnership between Commission and Member States
 - coherent investment framework
 - performance framework
 - Operational Programmes
 - a menu of thematic objectives to ensure focus, concentration and European value added
 - categories of interventions

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Performance and conditions

- Performance framework
 - milestones for achieving objectives
 - linking resources to performance
- Impacts/and results
 - related to share of renewable energies
 - related to SMEs and innovation
 - etc., etc
- Indicators that allow meaningful aggregations

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Performance and conditions - 2

- “Conditionalities”
 - a widely applied concept for enhancing effectiveness.
 - also in Cohesion Policy (e.g. Cohesion Fund)
 - linked to thematic objective
 - linked to regulatory obligations, admin. capacity,
 - support for linking directly to Cohesion Policy

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Options for simplification

- More extensive use of simplified costs
- Alignment of eligibility rules
- Reduction of the number of layers in management control systems
- Further simplification for ex-article 55
- More differentiated approach to delivery
- Reinforcement of the Single Audit Principle
- .. and MS to avoid “gold plating”

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Reduction of administrative burdens

Objective: making Regulations less burdensome
“Stoiber Group”

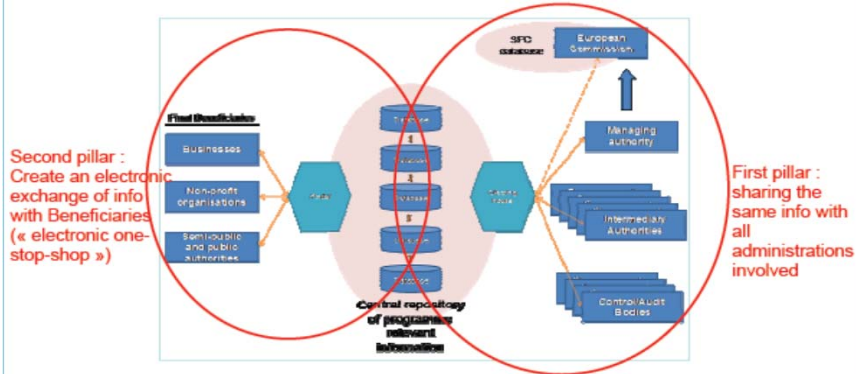
- Implementation of Action programme for reducing administrative burdens Cohesion Policy
 - Objective for Cohesion Policy: 25%
 - the ongoing “clearinghouse project” is an essential component for meeting this objective
- Informal Expert Group on Simplification
 - work resulted in a number of simplification proposals now under implementation
 - e.g. Article 55, Major Projects, simplified costs

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WHAT IS THE CLEARING HOUSE?

The Clearing House Recommendation

- Clearing houses do not store data centrally, but keep track of what information is stored where. It should enable interactive portals and ensure that all information will be submitted only once by Beneficiaries.



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Simplified costs

Objective: a significant simplification for beneficiaries and national authorities

- What is it?
 - allowing declaration of indirect costs on flat rate, use of standardised unit costs, lump sums
- 8 proposals for standard flat rates approved
 - flat rate of around 20% for indirect costs (essentially linked to personnel)

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