



Why should cities be more involved for a more impactful cohesion policy?

EUROCITIES position on post-2020 cohesion policy

**Meeting with permanent representations on the partnership approach and
the integrated territorial development in cohesion policy post-2020**

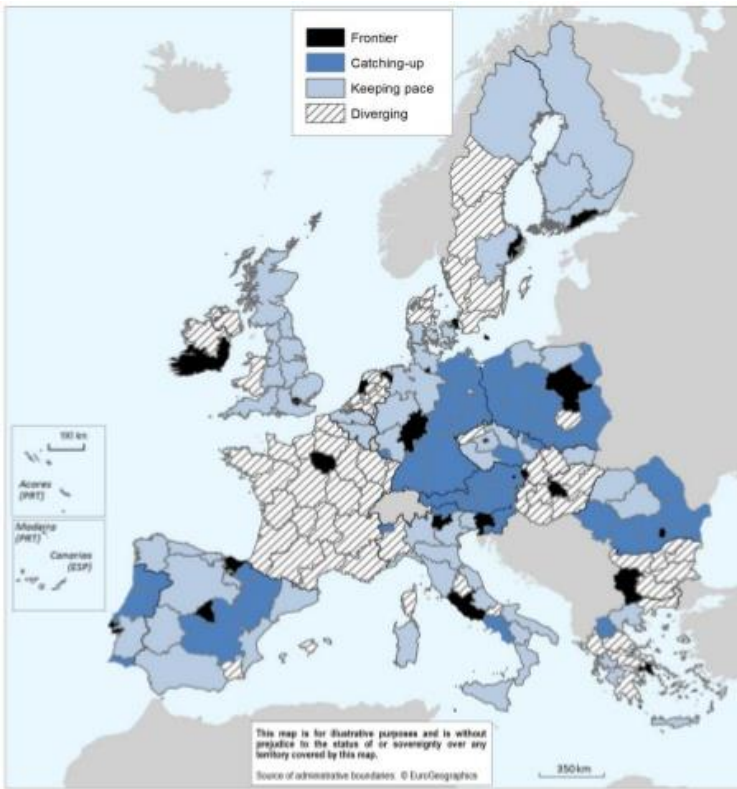
Brussels, 14 May 2018



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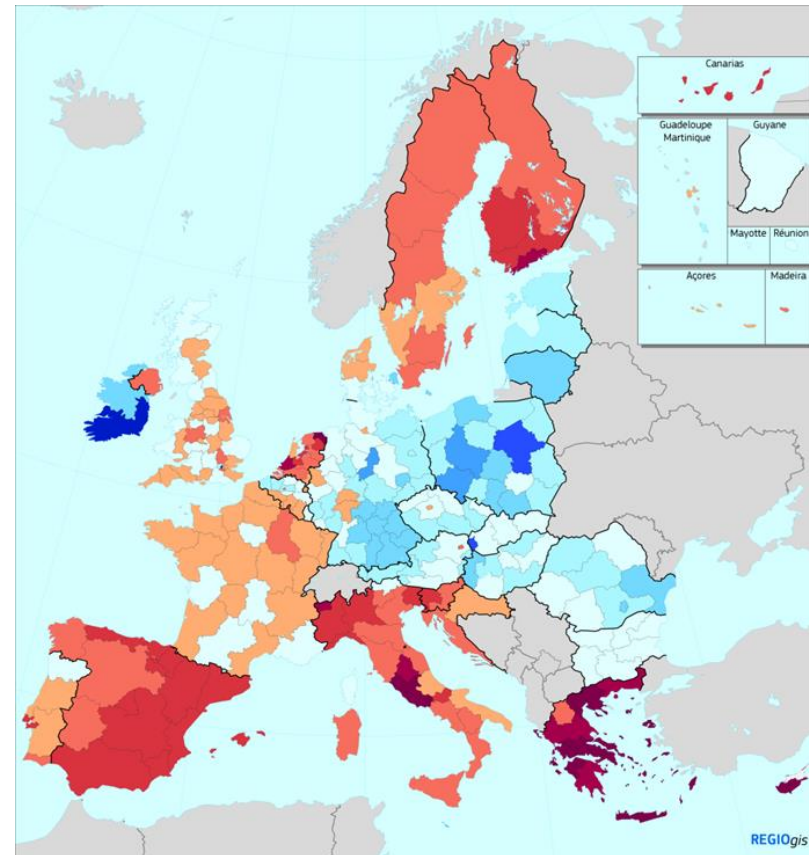
Why are we so concerned with impact?

Threats to cohesion: divergence, growing disparities

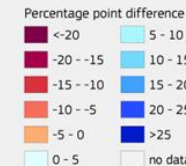


Geography of productivity convergence relative to national frontiers in European regions, 2000-14

Source: OECD



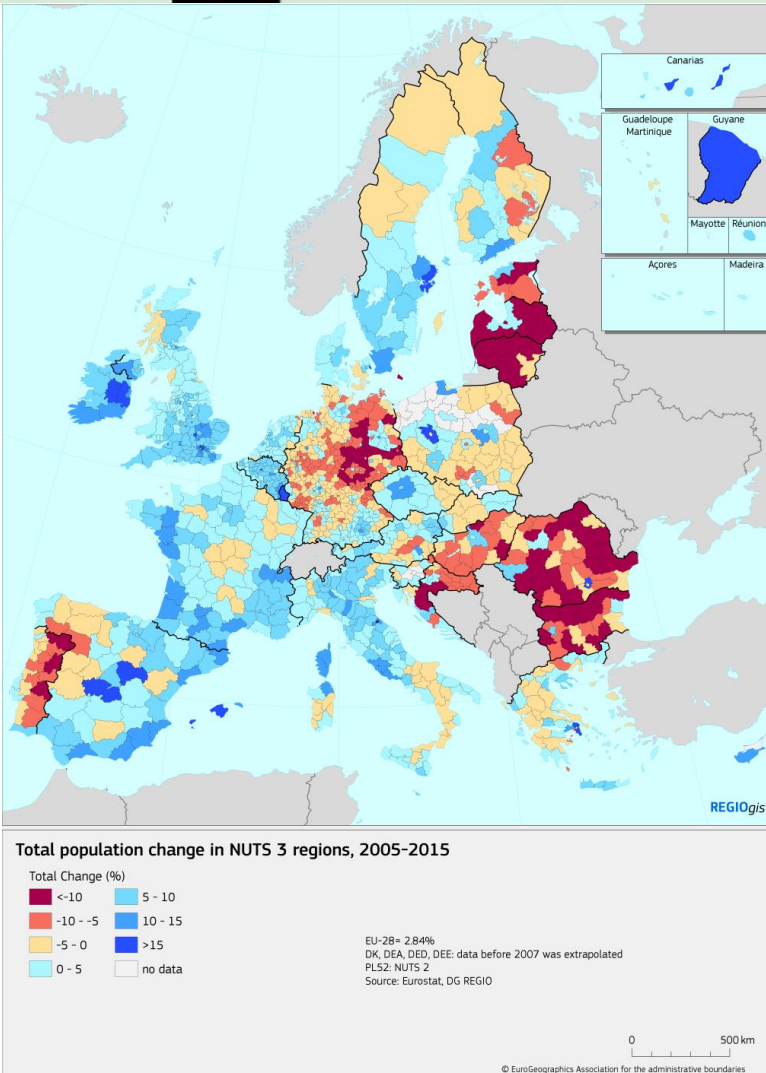
Change in GDP per head index, 2008 vs 2015



EU-28 = 0
Source: Eurostat, DG REGIO

Source: 7th Cohesion Report

Threats to cohesion: depopulation, poverty



Source: 7th Cohesion Report

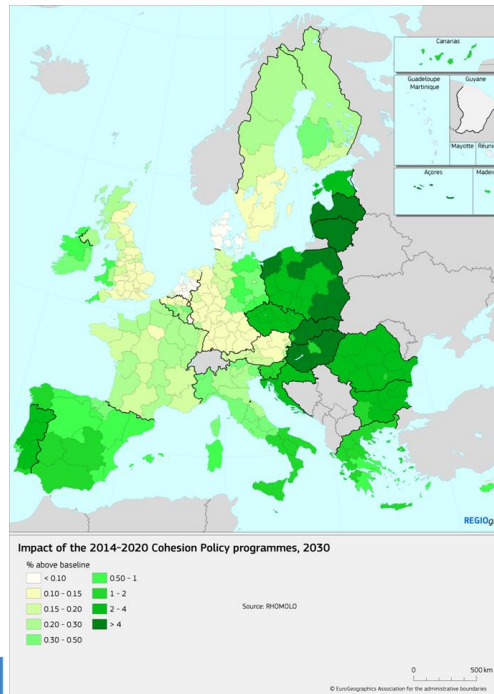
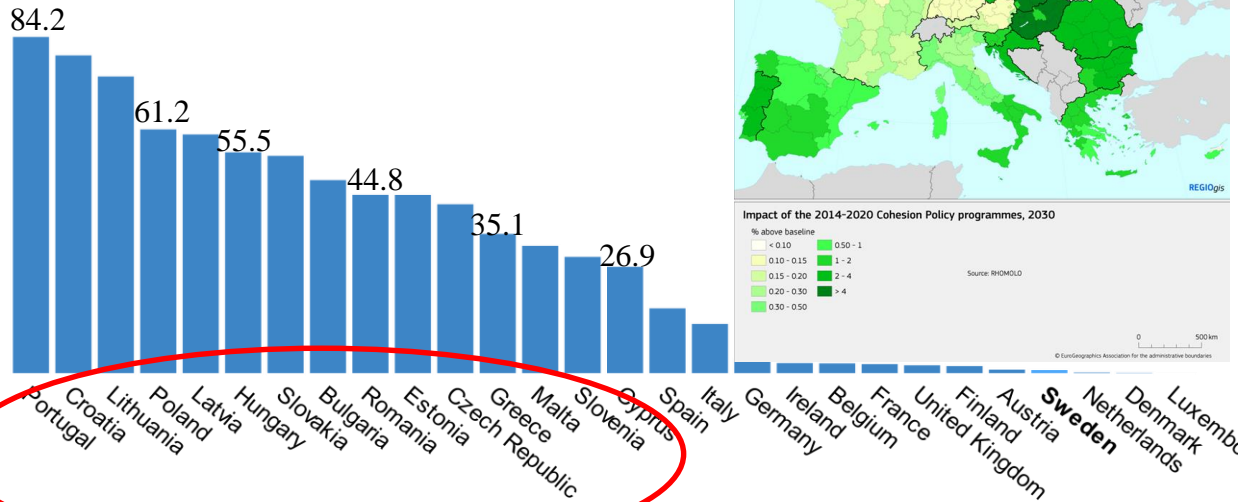
	Total	Children (0-17)	Adults (18-64)	Elderly (65 years and over)
EU-28 (*)	23.7	26.9	24.7	17.4
Belgium	21.1	23.3	21.7	16.2
Bulgaria	41.3	43.7	37.4	51.8
Czech Republic	14.0	18.5	13.6	10.9
Denmark	17.7	15.7	20.9	9.9
Germany	20.0	18.5	21.3	17.2
Estonia	24.2	22.5	21.0	37.0
Ireland
Greece	35.7	37.8	39.4	22.8
Spain	28.6	34.4	31.2	13.7
France	17.7	21.2	19.0	9.3
Croatia	29.1	28.2	28.5	31.9
Italy	28.7	33.5	30.4	19.9
Cyprus	28.9	28.9	30.5	20.8
Latvia	30.9	31.3	27.3	42.1
Lithuania	29.3	32.7	26.4	36.0
Luxembourg	18.5	23.0	19.2	8.2
Hungary	28.2	36.1	28.9	17.1
Malta	22.4	28.2	20.5	23.7
Netherlands	16.4	16.8	19.1	6.1
Austria	18.3	22.3	18.4	14.0
Poland	23.4	26.6	24.1	17.0
Portugal	26.6	29.6	27.4	21.7
Romania	37.4	46.8	35.7	33.3
Slovenia	19.2	16.6	19.7	20.2
Slovakia	18.4	24.9	17.8	12.8
Finland	16.8	14.9	18.1	14.5
Sweden	16.0	14.0	15.9	18.3
United Kingdom	23.5	30.3	22.9	17.7
Iceland	13.0	14.6	13.1	9.4
Norway	15.0	13.7	17.0	9.2
Serbia	41.3	41.8	42.9	35.2

(*) Estimates.
 : not available

Source: EUROSTAT

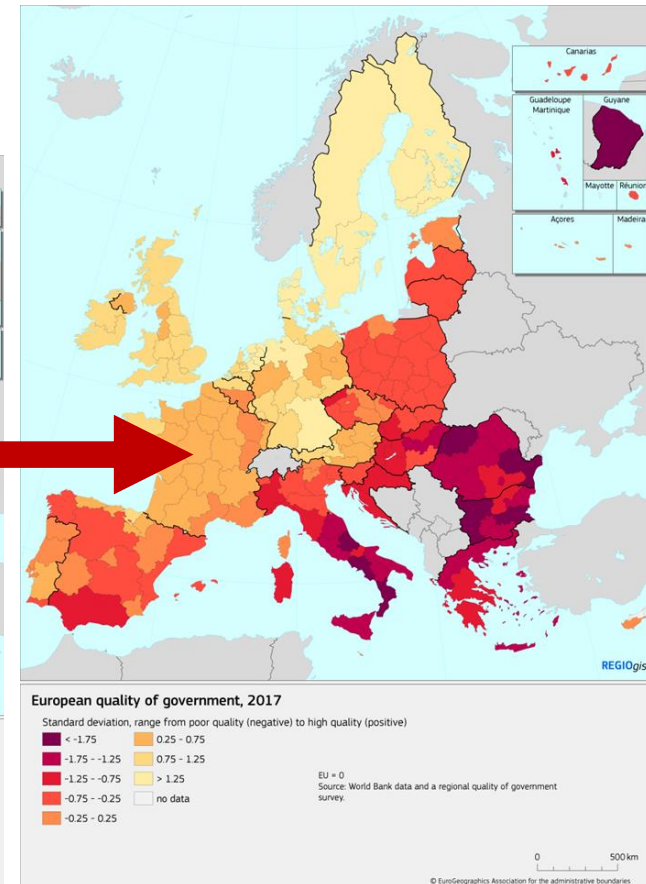
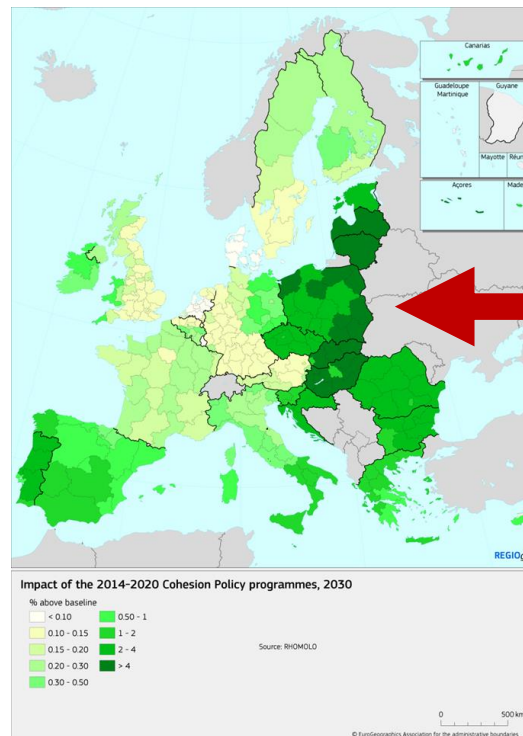
The potential impact of cohesion policy

Cohesion policy funding as an estimated share of public investment, 2015-2017, (%)



To boost the impact of cohesion policy...

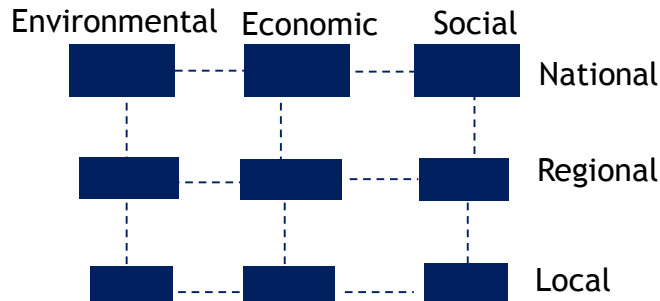
We need to fix the institutions!



We must address the institutional disconnect through

1. A **meaningful partnership process**, making multi-level governance a reality
2. A strong **integrated, place-based approach** to effectively address diverse local needs

What is the problem? Why is it a problem?



The great disconnect

- between different levels of government (linking EU with citizen)
- between policy areas at each level of government (policy silos)

Growing frustration with the EU

“The European Project has lost its ability to meet the expectations of the population”
IT President Sergio Mattarella

Impact

- Supply-driven instead of needs-driven projects
- Low innovation, outputs bring about little or no change, or even cause unwanted effects

Consequences

- Poorly informed, incoherent and ill-targeted policies and incentives
- Lack of shared understanding and ownership across actors
- Lack of tools to deal with typically complex local problems

1. The partnership process

We ask for a **systematic partnership dialogue with cities** across the policy-cycle.

How does it ensure better impact?

1. Better informed planning

- Ensuring needs-based, better targeted programmes
- Successful innovative approaches can be mainstreamed
- More realistic planning of capacity (constraints and cap. building)

2. Better implementation

- Shared understanding and ownership of objectives
- Feedback on what works/what doesn't allows better adaptation
- Empowerment increases responsibility for actions

You can already start now, in 2018.

A dialogue will help you develop the evidence-base to better target and set the right ambitions for programmes.

It will also save you time on drafting, negotiating and implementing the programmes.

2. Integrated, place-based approach

We ask for an **integrated, place-based approach** with a **strong urban dimension**.

Increased, multi-fund earmarking for urban strategies, ITI, CLLD, strengthening functional links, project selection, capacity building

How does this improve the policy's impact?

- Strengthens long-term, strategic thinking locally, linking EU and national objectives with local ambitions.
- Promotes cooperation -> more efficient use of resources, sharing benefits
- Allows to address complex local problems (linking hard and soft measures)
- Nurtures bottom-up, community initiatives (links to citizen's needs)
- Empowers local communities -> stronger ownership and motivation to deliver results.



Conclusions: Better programming, better delivery

Investing in a strong partnership process and an integrated, place-based approach will greatly improve the performance of cohesion policy.

- Local strategic planning linked to EU and national objectives
- Better targeting and response to local needs
- Effective tools to address complex problems
- Stronger local innovation and cooperation
- Empowerment and capacity building

will address many of today's risks and ensure better delivery.



Let's build on the experience from 2014-2020.

We are keen to listen to your experience and discuss our proposals with you.

Thank you for your attention.