



The Future of MRS cooperation in the new Cohesion Policy

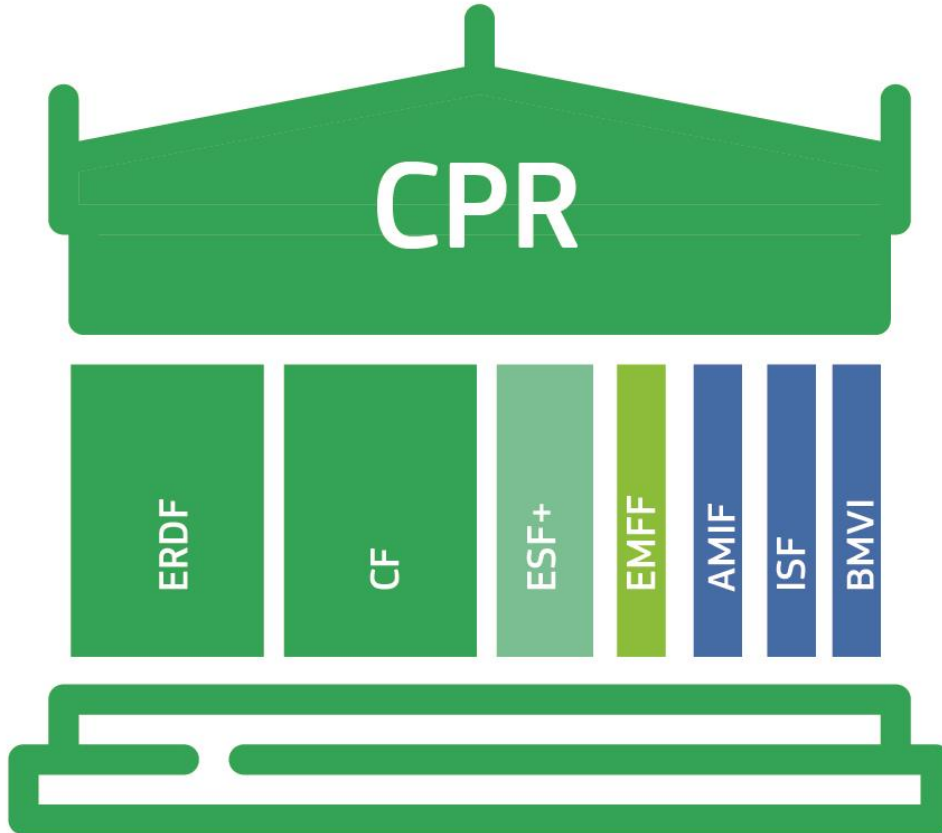
ADRION ANNUAL EVENT
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Budva

#CohesionPolicy
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Legal architecture

7 funds, 1 Regulation



CPR covers delivery.
1 set of rules is:

- More coherent
- Simpler to learn
- Simpler to combine



5 key legal instruments

Common Provisions Regulation (CPR)

- Delivery elements are here

ERDF/CF Regulation

- Cohesion policy priorities are here (e.g. specific objectives and thematic concentration requirements)
- Scope

ETC Regulation

- Territorial co-operation including external assistance
- New interregional innovation investments

ECBM Regulation:

off-the-shelf legal instrument to simplify cross-border projects

ESF+ Regulation

5 Policy + 2 Interreg-specific objectives

1. A smarter Europe (innovative & smart economic transformation)
2. A greener, low-carbon Europe (including energy transition, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk management)
3. A more connected Europe (mobility and ICT connectivity)
4. A more social Europe (the European Pillar of Social Rights)
5. A Europe closer to citizens (sustainable development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives)

Interreg Specific Objectives: **A better Interreg governance** / A safer and more secure Europe

Horizontal issues: administrative capacity building, **cooperation outside the programme area**

Main changes to ETC (Interreg)

5 Components of Interreg

- **Cross-border cooperation (component 1/ Strand A)**
internal – (also 3rd countries without EU funds)
external - IPA CBC, Neighbourhood CBC
NUTS 3
- **Transnational cooperation and maritime cooperation (component 2/ Strand B)**
2A Transnational cooperation
2B Maritime cooperation
- **Interregional cooperation (component 4/ Strand C)**
 - INTERACT (plus) *Interreg EUROPE*
 - ESPON *URBACT*
- *Outermost regions cooperation (component 3/ strand D)*
- *Interregional innovation investments (component 5)*

THEMATIC CONCENTRATION

	Percentage	On what?
Components 1, 2 and 3	At least 60%	Maximum of 3 out of 5
Components 1, 2 and 3	Another 15%	Better Interreg governance or Safer and more secure Europe
2A Transnational supporting MRS	100%	Objectives of MRS
2B Maritime supporting MRS or SBS	At least 70%	Objectives of MRS or SBS
Component 4	100%	Better Interreg governance

Commission tools to support MRS in post 2020

- 1) ETC Transnational/Maritime Programmes aligned with the MRS with the same geography
- 2) Art. 17 (3) Possibility to "transfer" ERDF allocation to ETC as separate priority (Article 17(3) ETC)
- 3) Cooperation as an horizontal objectives for mainstream ERDF programmes
- 4) Reference in the European Semester – Country Report (Annex D)
- 5) Annual report on MRS - Recommendations

Commission proposal for the ERDF and CF regulation:

- Encourage and boost cooperation measures within IGJ programmes between Member States under all of the specific objectives.
- Additional to the cooperation under ETC/Interreg.
- Cooperation among structured partnerships for implementing regional strategies.
- Partners may come from any region, including cross-border regions and regions which are all covered by a macro-regional and/or sea-basin strategy.

HOW to embedd?

Programming

- Member States describe under each SO interregional and transnational actions envisaged with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State. In addition, references to the contribution to relevant macro-regional or sea-basin strategies are required.
- Article 70 of 2014-2020 CPR restricting investments outside the programme area (15%) no longer included. No limitation for investments outside the programme area.

- **Step n°1:** MRS should identify the actions/ projects that require funding (*ongoing for the EUSAIR*)
- **Step n°2:** All MS in a MRS should coordinate together to agree on the key MRS priority that would require EU funds. It should not be done country by country – no ‘puzzle’ -.
- **Step n°3:** Each MS should then ensure that these MRS priorities are included in their Partnership Agreement and Operational Programmes
- IPA programming framework for IPA countries – The Commission is included in the process in this case

'Win-win' approach

- *Benefits for MRS*
 - **Experience of programmes (knowledge)**
 - **Contacts with policy-makers**
 - **Funding major projects/investments**
- *Benefits for programmes*
 - **Bigger impact (wider territory)**
 - **Visibility (political leaders, citizens, EU)**
 - **Improved development of their territory**

Types of projects

- *Joint projects*
 - **Several programmes fund a single project**
 - **Example: joint fund for research**
- *Coordinated projects*
 - **Several programmes fund group of coherent projects**
 - **Example: reduction discharge of phosphates in sea**
- *Single project*
 - **One programme fund one project for th benefit of MR**
 - **Example: lock to improve navigability on river**

Practical mechanisms

- *Specific selection criteria (e.g. bonus points)*
- *Earmarking of a dedicated budget*
- *Specific calls for macro-regional strategies*
- *Joint calls involving several programmes*
- *Labelling (ex-post identification of projects)*
- **Transfer of funds from ERDF to ETC (art. 17(3))**

Monitoring and evaluation

- No AIR required any more.
- Instead, quantitative data transfers six times per year, including contribution of programmes to Macro-regional or sea-basin strategies, and on achievement of common and specific output and result indicators.
- Suitable indicators required to measure outputs and results of joint or cooperative actions.

Embedding in the EUSAIR

- Catania Declaration Art. 6 (2018)
 - CALL on the national and regional authorities responsible for the ESI and IPA funds in our countries to closely coordinate among them across the Region, since the very early stages of 2021-2027 strategic planning, so as to jointly agree on the macro-regional priorities to be included in the ESIF Partnership Agreements and IPA Strategy Papers and, subsequently, in the ensuing, relevant programming documents. In that respect, URGE the ESIF and IPA programme authorities and the EUSAIR key implementers to jointly work to identify at the earliest convenience pilot macro-regional actions and projects which require, for their implementation, a coordinated planning and programming of national/regional ESI and IPA funds across the Region.
- Position Paper agreed by EUSAIR National Coordinators
 - Course of action for the implementation of Art. 6 Catania
- Budva Declaration (to be adopted)
 - We expect a commitment on implementing the Position Paper