



# **Cohesion Policy 2014-2020**

## **Legislative Framework**

**Bolzano, 11th September 2013**

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## What is going on?

October 2011 – Commission adopted the new legislative framework for 2014-2020

On-going - negotiations with the Council and the European Parliament

Multiannual Financing Framework (Budget) adopted by the Council on 8 February 2013

Rejection by the European Parliament on 13 March 2013

EP plenary vote in October 2013, entry into force - end of November 2013



# Legislative package

## General regulation

Common provisions for cohesion policy, the rural development policy and the maritime and fisheries policies

Common provisions for cohesion policy only  
(ERDF, ESF, CF)

**Fund-specific regulations** for ERDF, ESF, CF

**Specific ETC regulation**

**EGTC regulation**



# A menu of thematic objectives...

- Research & innovation
- Information and communication technologies (ICT)
- Competitiveness of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)
- Shift towards a low-carbon economy
- Climate change adaptation & risk prevention and management
- Environmental protection & resource efficiency
- Sustainable transport & removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures
- Employment & supporting labour mobility
- Social inclusion & combating poverty
- Education, skills & lifelong learning
- Institutional capacity building & efficient public administrations



## ...and investment priorities

Each thematic objective is translated into “investment priorities” (in Fund-specific regulations)

For ETC: Art.5 of the draft ERDF regulation + Art.6 of the draft ETC regulation

Flexibility for a programme to choose an optimal mix of them



## State of play of negotiations on ETC regulation

- Political agreement reached on the whole ETC Regulation (except for financial allocations) and COREPER endorsed corresponding texts on 26 June 2013
- ETC template discussed in expert group on 1 March, 24 May and 4 July 2013



# What's new?

## Objectives of the CBC

Cross-border cooperation should :

- Tackle common challenges identified jointly in the border regions
- Exploit the untapped potentials in the border area



# What's new?

## Programme areas

- COM will adopt implementing act on cross-border areas to receive support, broken down by cooperation programme
- Possibility to request inclusion of additional areas when programmes are submitted





# What's new?

## Content of cooperation programmes

- Structure aligned to OPs under Investment for Growth and Jobs Goal
- Not all elements will be covered by COM decision
- Confirmation of the agreement to the programming document in writing



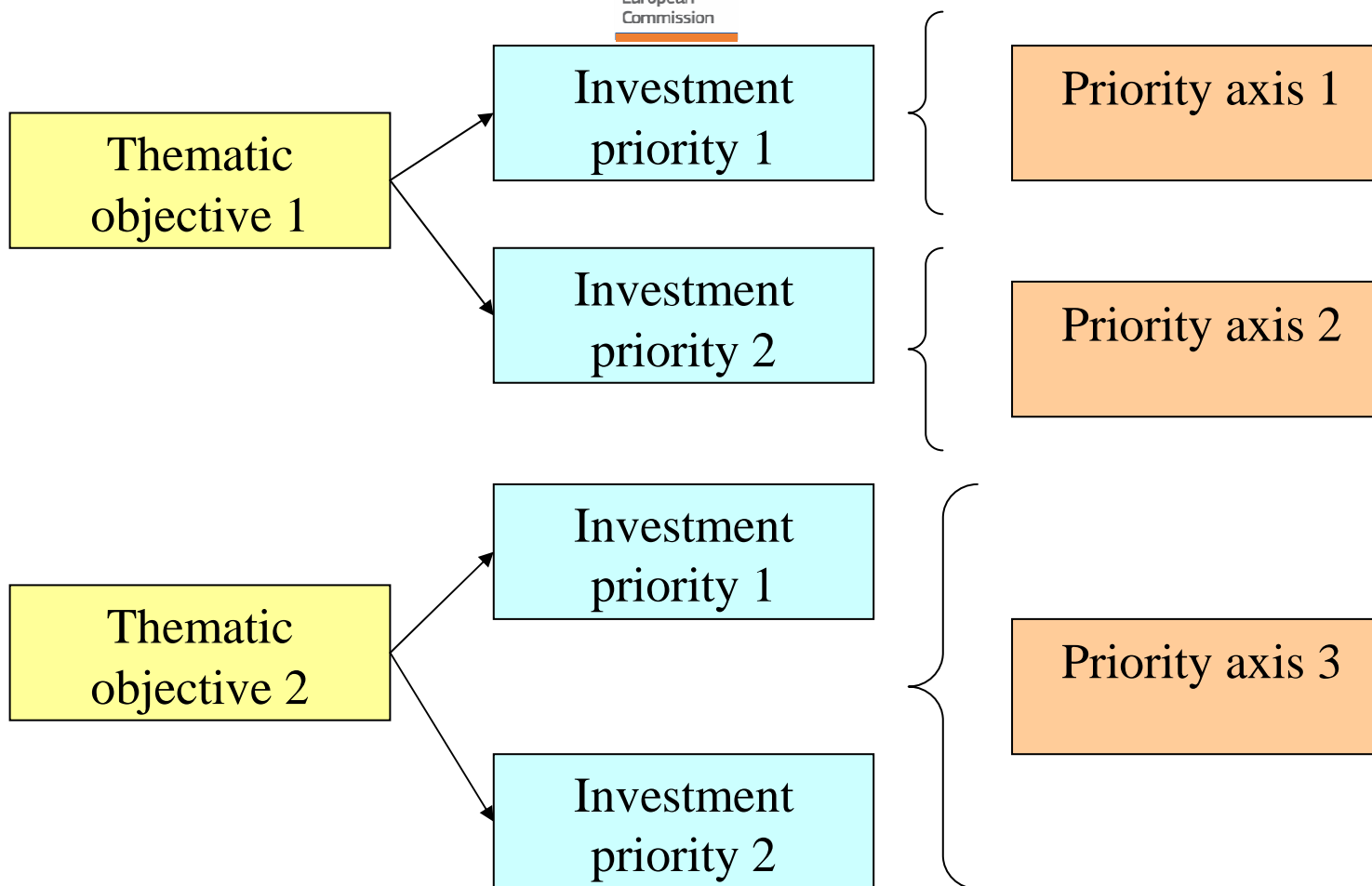
## What's new?

# Focus of programmes

- Thematic concentration: At least 80% of the ERDF allocation to be concentrated on up to 4 thematic objectives
- Priority axis should correspond to one thematic objective and comprise one or more investment priorities from that thematic objective
- Possibility to exceptionally combine complementary investment priorities from different thematic objectives



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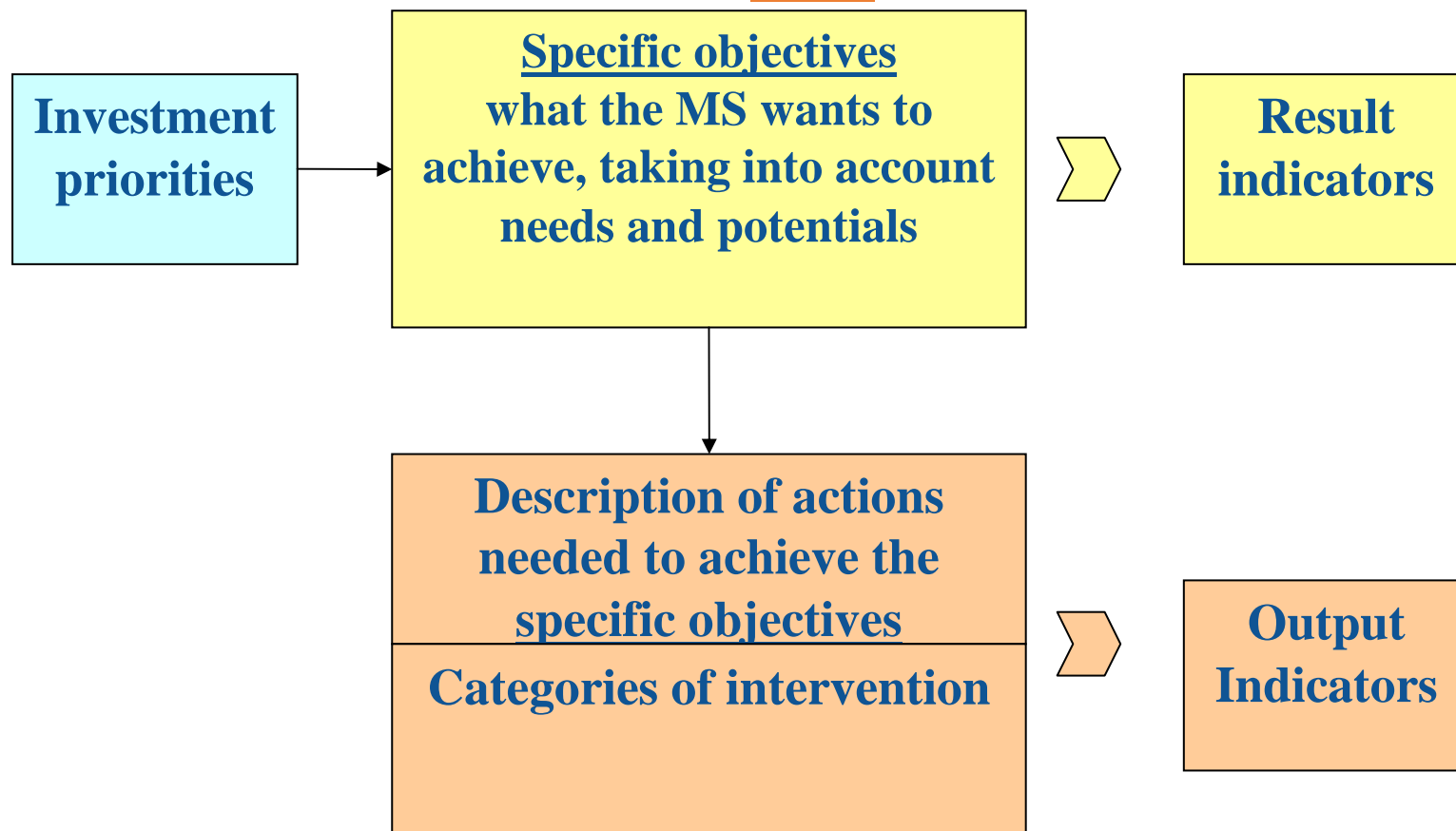




# What's new?

## Basic questions

- Why do we need this money?
- What do we want to achieve?
- How to do it?
- How to measure it?
- Result indicators, common output indicators, specific output indicators



**Investment  
priority**

Enhancing  
regional  
mobility  
through  
connecting  
secondary  
and tertiary  
nodes to  
TEN-T  
infrastructure

**Specific objective:** Enhancing mobility  
between small towns and big cities and  
towards international border crossing  
points

Reduction of  
travel time

**Description of actions needed**

- Enhancing the capacity of roads A and B
- Building multi-level intersections in areas x and y
- Connecting railway track A to track B

**Categories of intervention**

- Railways
- Secondary road links to TEN-T road network and nodes
- Other national and regional roads

- Km of road upgraded
- Km of new railway line  
+
- No of intersections constructed



# What's new?

## Operations and beneficiaries

- Cooperation criteria: 2 +1 (Cooperation in development and implementation obligatory, in addition cooperation in either the financing or the staffing)
- Lead beneficiaries may be in third countries, subject to certain conditions
- Specific rules for operations implemented outside the Union part of the programme area (both inside and outside the EU)

## What's new?

# Reporting, Technical Assistance

- Regular implementation reports to be submitted by 31 May, (except for more strategic ones in 2017 and 2019, for which the deadline is 30 June)
- TA: 6% of total amount allocated to a cooperation programme
- For programmes with a total allocation not exceeding EUR 50m, the amount of the total ERDF allocated to TA is limited to 7% of the total amount allocated, but not less than EUR 1.5m and not higher than EUR 3m.





## What's new? Eligibility

- Hierarchy of rules: CPR and delegated act, additional rules agreed by Member States in the monitoring committee, national rules apply as a last resort
- COM to adopt delegated act on a number of cost categories
- Staff costs may be calculated as a flat rate of up to 20% of the direct costs of an operation other than staff costs

## Use of the Euro and de-commitment

- Three options for the conversion into Euro
- N+3



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## Partnership Agreement

General regulation adopted

Max 4 months

Partnership Agreement  
submitted (MS)

Max 3 months

Observations by EC

Max 1 month

Partnership Agreement  
approval

**Objective: to be faster  
than the deadlines.**

**Important to reach  
agreement in informal  
dialogues to complete  
the formal procedure as  
rapidly as possible.**

## Country specific programmes

Max 3 months

All OPs submitted (MS)

Max 3 months

Observations by EC

Max 3 months

OP approval

## ETC programmes

Max 9 months

ETC OPs (MS)

Max 3 months

Observations by EC

Max 3 months

ETC OP approval

# Regulatory timeline



# Budget

MFF for ETC: € 8.948 billion:

- (a) € 6.6 billion for cross-border cooperation (currently € 5.6 billion for 53 programmes)
- (b) € 1.8 billion for transnational cooperation (currently € 1.8 billion for 13 programmes)
- (c) € 500 million for interregional cooperation (currently € 445 million for INTERREG IVC and 3 networking programmes (Urbact II, Interact II and ESPON))

This is equivalent to 2.75% of cohesion policy resources.

The COM had proposed a higher share for ETC (€ 11.7 billion, 3.5 % of cohesion policy resources).

# Programmes - what is the issue?

- Current programmes are often just designed to spend:
  - Objectives vague (often deliberately so for maximum freedom)
  - How to recognise success or failure often not clear
  - Evaluations focused on bottlenecks to implementation – mostly linked to spending - not effects
  - Indicators do not express objectives & reporting is not reliable in some cases (and is never debated)
- Consequently, it has been difficult to demonstrate the impact of the policy



# For more information

**InfoRegio:**

**[ec.europa.eu/info regio](http://ec.europa.eu/info regio)**

**RegioNetwork:**

**[www.regionetwork2020.eu](http://www.regionetwork2020.eu)**