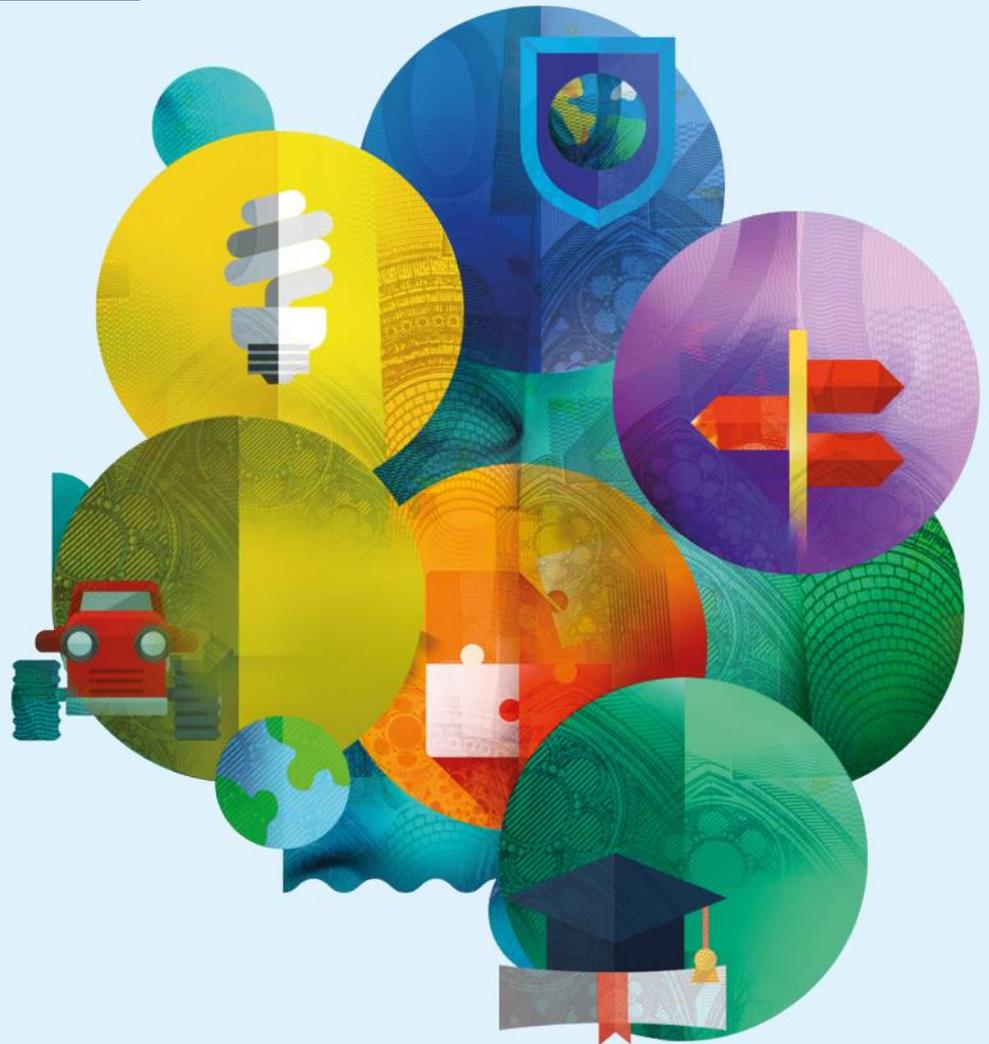


EU Budget for the future Are EU SME policies fit for the new challenges? The role of cohesion policy

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#CohesionPolicy
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Policy objectives for cohesion policy post 2020

11 objectives are simplified and consolidated to 5:

- 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)

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

PO1 Smart Growth specific objectives

In accordance with the policy objectives, the ERDF shall support the specific objectives of "*a smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation*" by:

1. Enhancing research and innovation **capacities** and **the uptake of advanced technologies**;
2. Reaping the benefits of **digitisation** for citizens, companies and governments;
3. Enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs;
4. **Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship**;

Scope of support from the ERDF

The ERDF shall support:

- a) investments in infrastructure;
- b) investments in access to services;
- c) productive investments in SMEs;
- d) equipment, software and **intangible assets**;
- e) information, communication, studies, networking, cooperation, exchange of experience and activities involving clusters;
- f) technical assistance.

In addition, the ERDF shall also support:

- productive investments in enterprises other than SMEs when they involve cooperation with SMEs research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies under PO1 Smart Growth (a) (i)
- **training, life-long learning and education activities under PO1 (a) (iv)**;
- sharing of facilities and of human resources, soft investments and other activities linked to PO 4 under the European Social Fund Plus, under the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg).

Enabling condition for smart specialisation

Policy objective	Specific objective	Name of enabling condition
1. A smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation	ERDF: All specific objectives under this policy objectives	Good governance of national or regional smart specialisation strategy

Fulfilment criteria for the enabling condition

Smart specialisation strategy(ies) shall be supported by:

1. Up-to-date analysis of bottlenecks for innovation diffusion, including digitalisation
2. Existence of competent regional / national institution or body, responsible for the management of the smart specialisation strategy
3. Monitoring and evaluation tools to measure performance towards the objectives of the strategy
4. Effective functioning of entrepreneurial discovery process
5. Actions necessary to improve national or regional research and innovation systems
6. Actions to manage industrial transition
7. Measures for international collaboration

Interregional innovation investments

WHAT

Interregional innovation investments through **the commercialisation and scaling up** of interregional innovation projects having the potential to encourage **the development of European value chains** ('component 5'). (ETC Art 3.5)

HOW MUCH

11.5 % of ETC Resources (i.e., **a total of EUR 970m**) for interregional innovation investments (component 5). (ETC Art. 9.2)

HOW

It shall be implemented under **direct or indirect management**. (ETC Art 16.1)

FOR WHOM

At the initiative of the Commission, the ERDF may support interregional innovation investments, as set out in point 5 of Article 3, **bringing together researchers, businesses, civil society and public administrations involved in smart specialisation strategies established at national or regional levels**. (ETC Art 61)

Conclusions

- SMEs will continue to play a central role in the implementation of smart specialisation
 - Need for adaptation to new framework, part of reinforced governance
 - Reinforced role of EDP as an ongoing process, with strong role of SMEs
 - Need to increase cross-sectoral cooperation as part of adaptation to technological change
 - Important potential role in interregional cooperation, both at sector and macro-regional level.

Thank you!