



**European Committee  
of the Regions**

**Commission for Territorial  
Cohesion Policy and EU Budget**

**COTER**

**COTER External Seminar**  
**Using Cohesion policy instruments  
to address investment gaps  
in European regions**

**Dubrovnik, Croatia  
4 March 2019**



**DUBROVNIK-  
NERETVA  
REGION**



**European Committee  
of the Regions**



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**COTER External Seminar**

## **Using Cohesion policy instruments to address investment gaps in European regions**

With the proposal for a new Multiannual Financial Framework for the years 2021-2027, the European Commission is proposing a new, modern long-term budget, tightly geared to the political priorities of the Union at 27. The proposed budget combines innovative instruments with modernised programmes to deliver efficiently on the Union's priorities and to rise to new challenges. Although the financial envelope for Cohesion policy is proposed to be reduced to reflect the new priorities of a smaller Union, investments still play a key role in the MFF expenditure area. With national public investment still not fully recovered from the economic and financial crisis, Cohesion policy plays a key role in mitigating the impact of the crisis and its positive spill-over effects are not limited to less developed regions only.

The legislative files for cohesion policy post-2020 put forward by the European Commission in May 2018 reflect the need to support investments and to link sound economic governance to Cohesion policy by simplifying the use of the integrated territorial development tools and by setting out a more prominent role of the European Semester's Country-Specific Recommendations (CSRs) within the programming phase.

The European Committee of the Regions has already expressed its views on all Cohesion policy-related legislative proposals by adopting its opinions in October and December 2018, putting forward European cities' and regions' needs and concerns at an early stage in the legislative process. This seminar aims to look at the impact of the EU budget on public investments, as well as real experience in the implementation of integrated territorial development tools. It also aims to give focus to the role of the regions in the programming phase, translating their needs into CSRs, thereby contributing to more effective delivery of Cohesion policy on the ground.

*Interpreting arrangements: 6/6: EN/FR/DE/HR/PL/EL*

**09.00 a.m.**      **Registration of participants**

**09.15 a.m.**      **Opening statements**

Statements by:

- **Ms Isabelle Boudineau (FR/PES)**, Chair of the CoR COTER Commission
- **Mr Nikola Dobroslavić (HR/EPP)**, President of the Dubrovnik Neretva Region

**09.30 a.m. Keynote speech by Ms Gabrijela Žalac,  
Minister for Regional Development and EU Funds of Croatia**

Debate

**10.00 a.m. Session 1: Multiannual Financial Framework: will it really address  
the needs of regions?**

*The European Committee of the Regions and the European Parliament having adopted their positions on the MFF package proposal, Member States are now engaged in negotiations within the Council preparatory bodies in order to reach an agreement in the European Council by October 2019.*

*This session aims to provide an overview of the state of play in the current negotiations.*

Speakers:

- **Ms Simeona Manova**, Directorate General for Budget, European Commission
- **Ms Ivana Maletić**, Member of the European Parliament, Committee on Budgets
- **Mr Nikola Dobroslavić (HR/EPP)**, President of the Dubrovnik Neretva Region, CoR rapporteur on “The Multiannual Financial Framework package for the years 2021-2027”
- **Mr Michael Schneider (DE/EPP)**, CoR rapporteur on the “Common Provisions Regulation”

Debate

**10.50 a.m. Session 2: Integrated territorial development tools as a boost  
for local investments**

*The European Commission has suggested to continue to use several tools for integrated territorial development, including the Community-led local development, Integrated Territorial Investments (ITIs) and other territorial tools supporting initiatives for investments programmed for the ERDF under the “Europe closer to citizens” policy objective. Integrated and comprehensive initiatives at local level are amongst the best tools to carry out small-scale investments at local level.*

*This session will examine the current state of play in the implementation and the real experience that local and regional authorities have gained in the current programming period. It will also look at an exchange of experiences and best-practices of the use of ITIs and CLLD and consider ways to improve their uptake.*

Speakers:

- **Mr Mato Franković**, Mayor of Dubrovnik
- **Mr Michiel Rijsberman**, (NL/ALDE), Regional Minister of the Province of Flevoland, CoR rapporteur on the “European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund”
- **Mr John Bachtler**, Director, European Policies Research Centre
- **Mr Chris Van Lierop**, European Parliamentary Research Service

Debate

**11.35 a.m. Coffee break**

## 11.50 a.m. **Session 3: Translating regional needs into Country-Specific Recommendations**

*The proposal for the new Common Provisions Regulation suggests strengthening the link between Cohesion policy and the European Semester. In order to support their implementation in the Member States, relevant CSRs should serve as a roadmap for the programming of the funds and design and mid-term review of Cohesion policy programmes. Whilst the negotiations on the legislative package are still underway, Managing Authorities are already engaging in the preparation of their programmes, based on the CSRs to be delivered in 2019. The third session of the seminar will therefore provide an opportunity to review the existing procedures and experience in translating regional needs into CSRs within the upcoming programming procedures, due to start as soon as in 2019.*

Speakers:

- **Ms Mariana Hristcheva**, Head of Unit, Evaluation and European Semester, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
- **Mr Rob Jonkman (NL/ECR)**, CoR rapporteur on “The European Semester and Cohesion Policy: aligning structural reforms with long-term investments”
- **Ms Melanija Milić**, Director of the Regional Development Agency of the Dubrovnik-Neretva Region DUNEA
- **Mr Jakša Puljiz**, Head of Department for European Integration, Institute for Development and International Relations, Zagreb, Croatia

Debate

## 12.35 p.m. **Closing of the seminar**

Closing statements:

- **Mr Nikola Dobroslavić (HR/EPP)**, President of the Dubrovnik Neretva Region
- **Ms Isabelle Boudineau (FR/PES)**, Chair of the CoR COTER Commission

## 12.50 p.m. **End of the seminar**

## 1.00 p.m. **Lunch**

**Venue** Hotel Dubrovnik Palace, Masarykov put 20, 20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia



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