

ERDF, CF and JTF 2021-2027 mid-term evaluation & REACT-EU report

2nd Evaluation Network of NSRF Programs 2021-2027
Athens, 24 October 2025

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Introduction

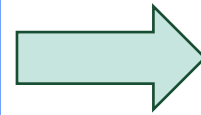
Complementary exercises & single message

Ex post 2014-2020, ERDF and CF + REACT-EU:

- Implementation ended in 2023 (almost full data)
- Focus on impacts and thematic findings
- Call for evidence Jan 2022 -> 13 WPs and internal work -> RSB April 2025

Mid-term 2021-2027, ERDF, CF and JTF:

- Implementation considered until mid-2024, with updates from end-2024
- Focus on policy features and early implementation
- Call for evidence Sep 2023 -> Supporting study and internal work -> RSB Nov 2024



Cohesion policy over the last 10 years has worked.

It has delivered sustainable development for all territories and reduced inequalities between regions.

In some territories and thematic areas it has worked better than in others and we have the knowledge to improve it.



Evidence base



Legal, academic and programming documents



Financial and performance monitoring data + other



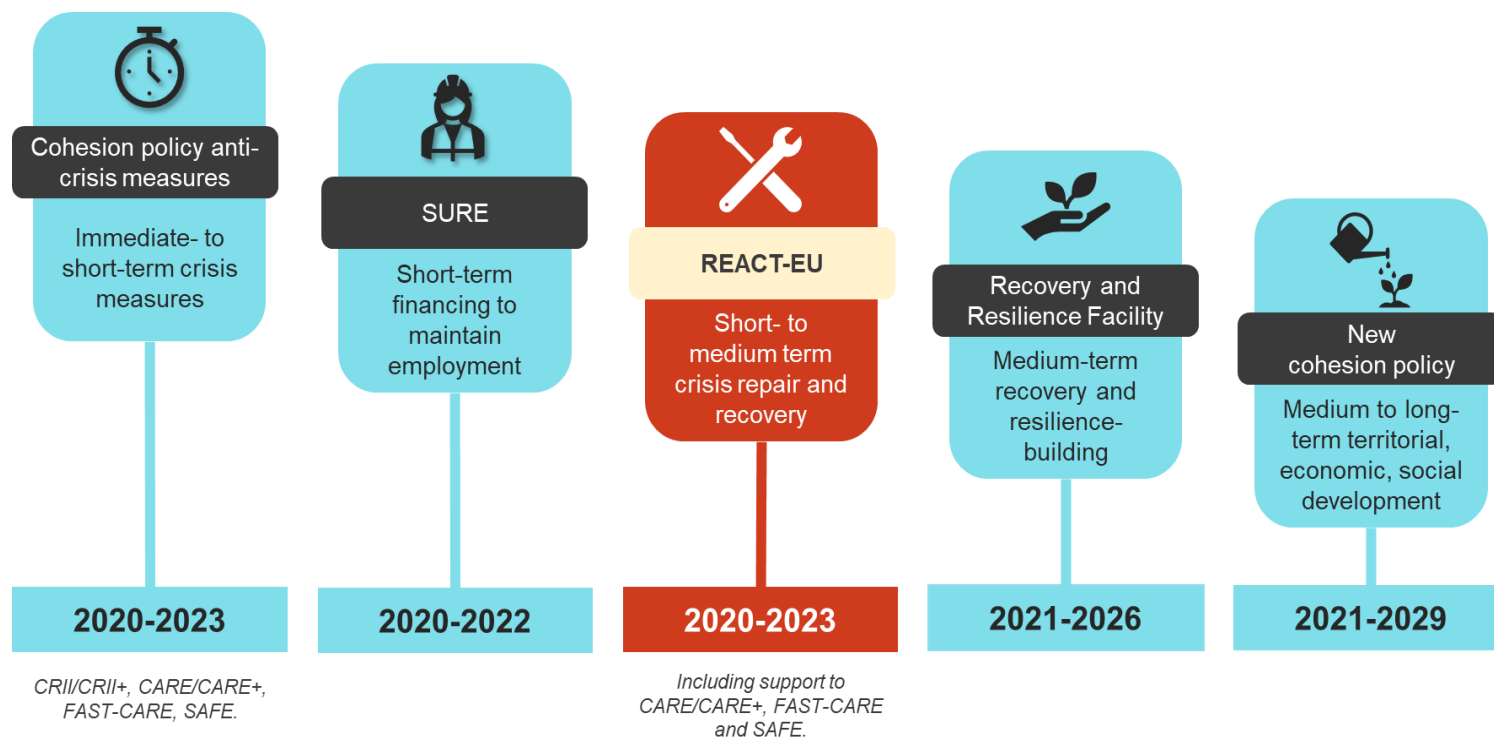
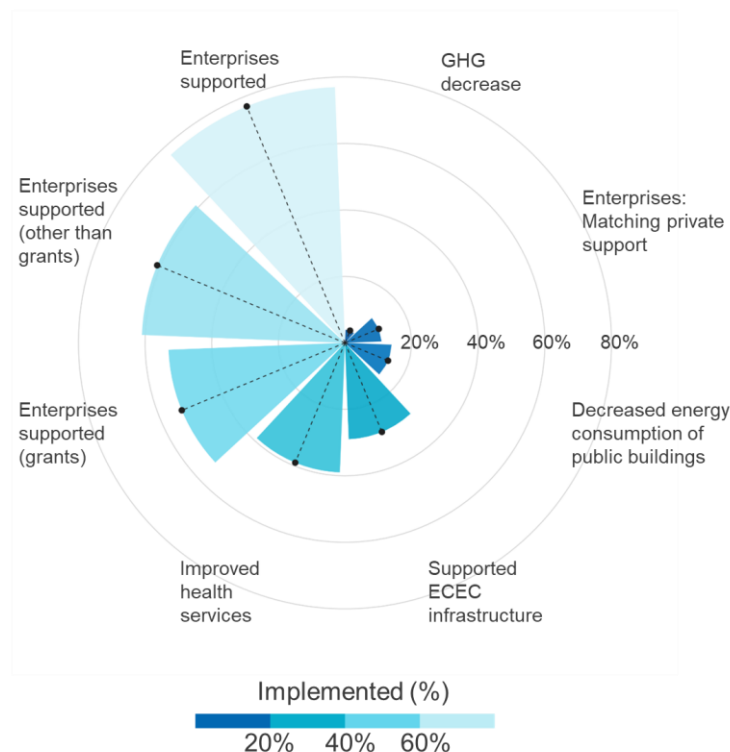
Stakeholder consultations

- Literature review and internal EC studies
- All 27 Partnership Agreements
- European Semester: CRs, CSRs, NRPs (2019-2023)
- Sample of 90 programmes (60% of EU allocation) with all related documentation, including all 20 TJTPs
- Data: mid-2024 (supporting study) / end-2024 (SWD)
- Analysis of internal programming data and timelines
- RHOMOLO-based macro-economic modelling
- Survey: 618 representative replies (MA, IB, CB, MC)
- Other: call for evidence, interviews, seminar

Mid-term evaluation 2021-2027 (and REACT-EU)

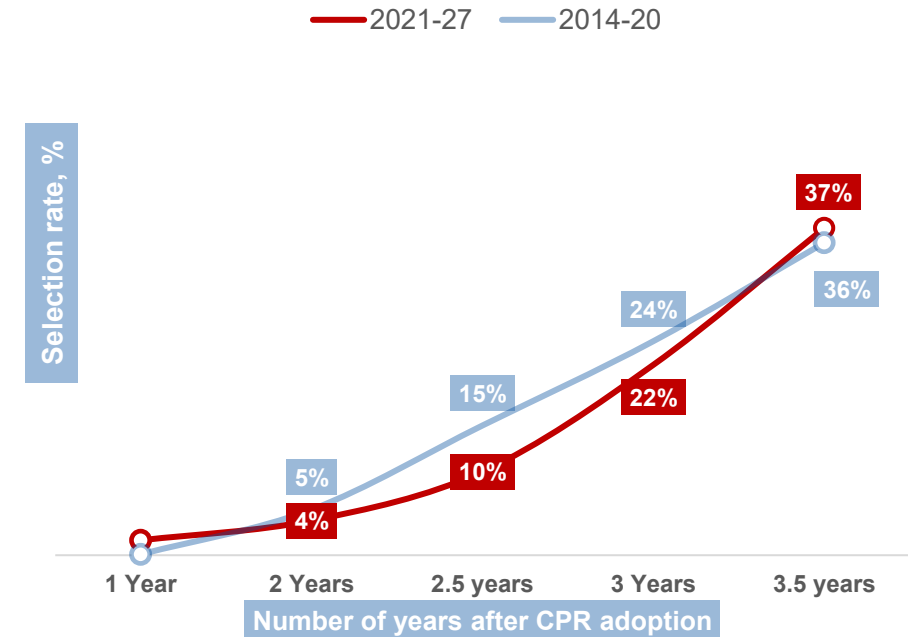
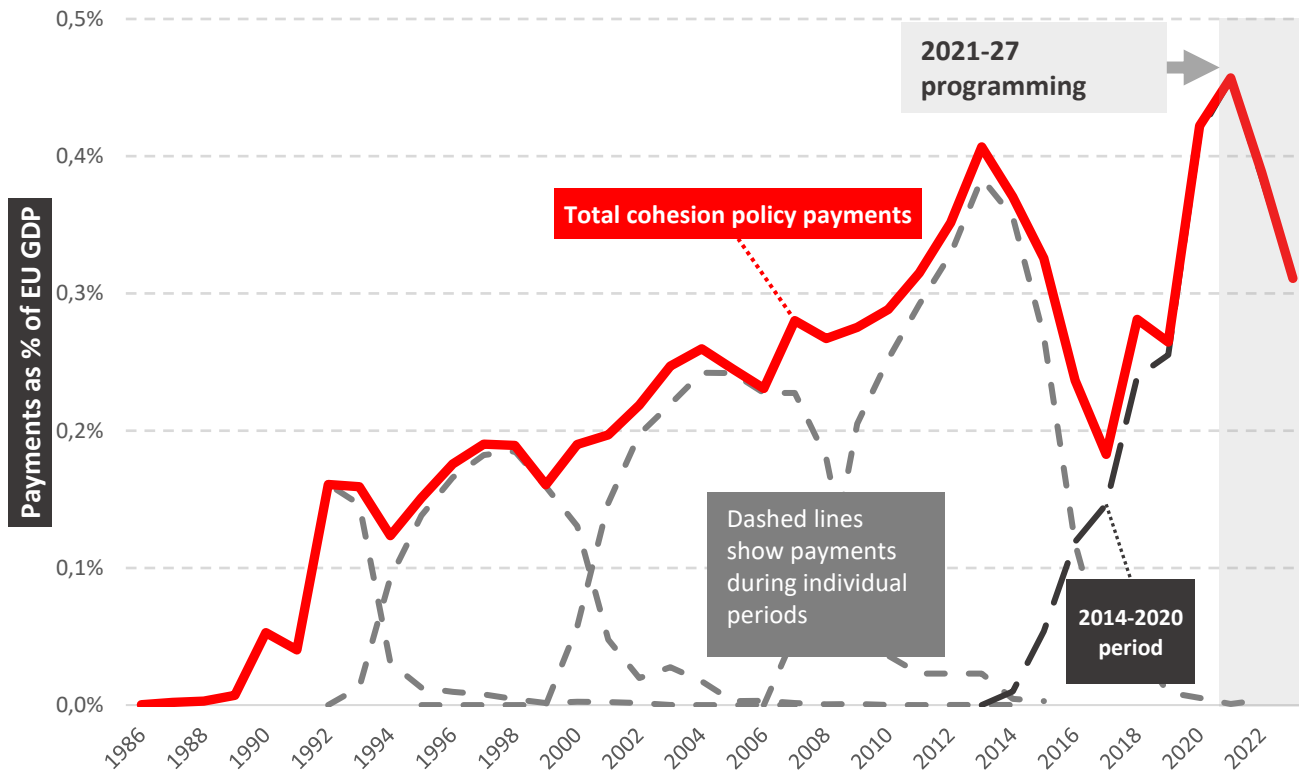
REACT-EU report (2020-2023)

- Commission Report on the outcome of evaluation work, covering both ERDF and ESF
- REACT-EU was rapid and given its scale, effective in addressing the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis while bridging the two programming periods

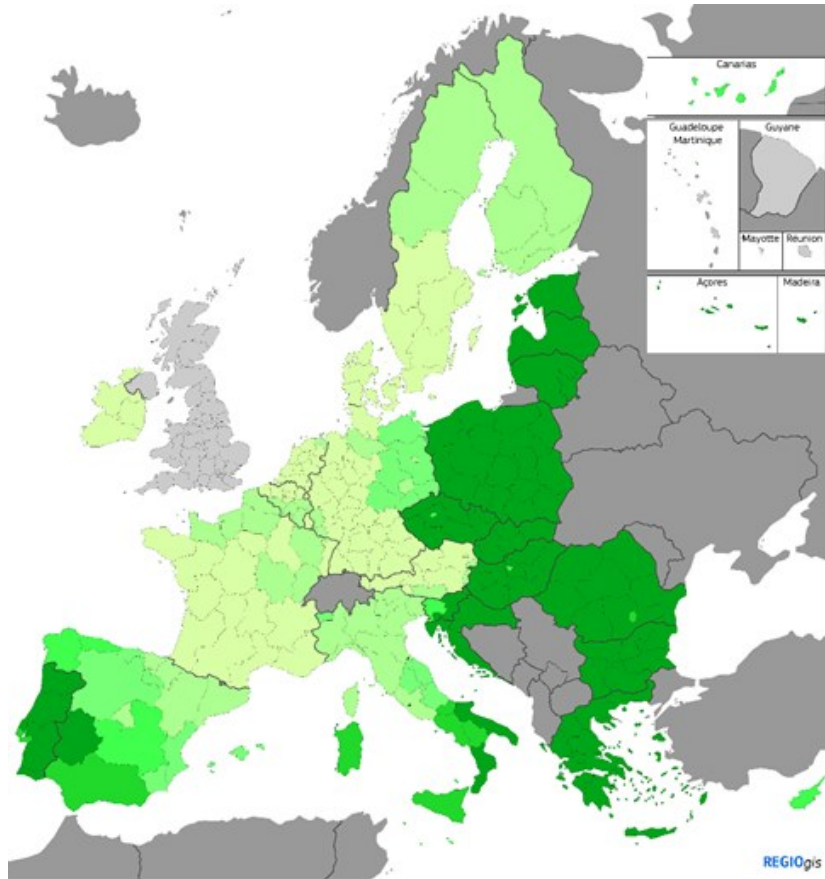


Early implementation and context

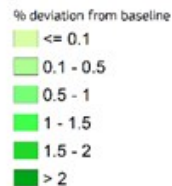
- Cohesion policy as a continuous source of funding across programming periods
- For 2021-2027, implementation started late but accelerated and caught up with 2014-2020 levels. Initial delays were largely due to exogenous factors.



Effectiveness... and impact?



Impact of the 2021-2027 cohesion policy programmes on the GDP of NUTS 2 regions in 2030



Source: RHOMOLO simulations

0 500 km

© EuroGeographics Association for the administrative boundaries

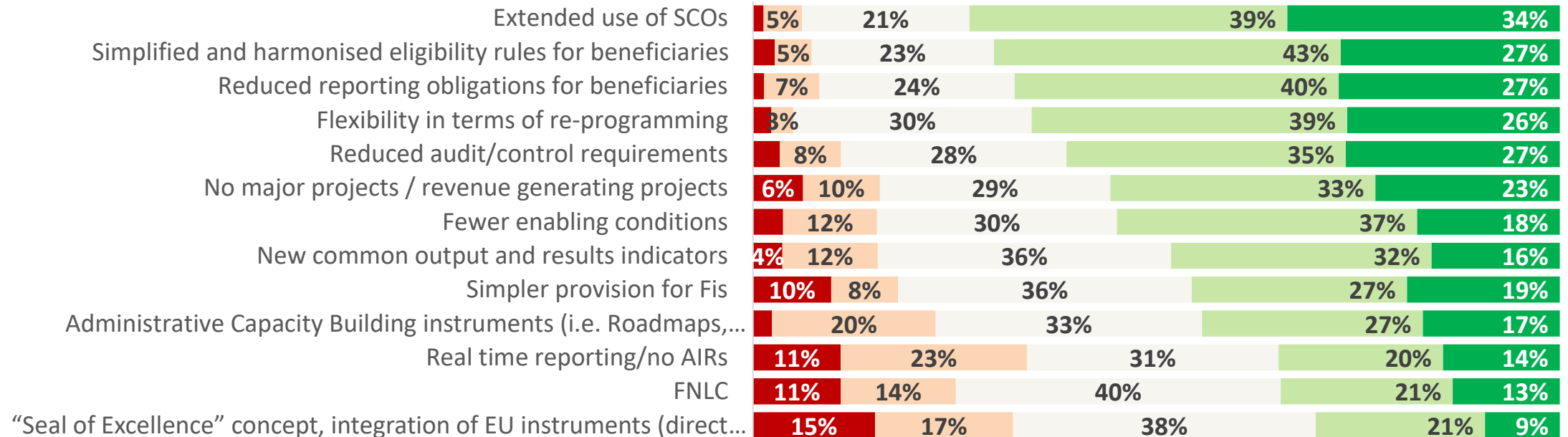
- Late start and acceleration
- Lagging progress on outputs
- JTF novelty, with caveats
- Partnership, multilevel governance, territorial tools
- Only ex ante model simulations (including all CP):
 - EU GDP 0.61% higher in 2030 (+3.3% in LDRs).
 - Multiplier = 3 per 1 EUR spent after 25 years.
 - Gap top 20% vs bottom 20% up to 4.4% lower.
 - Employment up by around 1% (2 million jobs).



Simplification and reforms

Do you consider the below helpful in improving efficiency, effectiveness and/or reducing administrative burden?

■ Not at all helpful ■ To a limited extent ■ Moderately ■ Largely ■ Extremely helpful



Coherence

01

National and
regional
policies and
investments

02

EU horizontal
priorities and
principles

03

RRF

04

Coordination
mechanisms
with other
funds



Relevance and EU added value

The funds are highly relevant to achieving the EU's policy objectives

- Strong alignment with the European Semester, Council's Strategic Agenda and the Commission president's Guidelines
- The 2025 mid-term review offers a valuable opportunity to further align the programmes with emerging needs and areas to boost growth identified by the Draghi report.

EU added value through

- Provision of European public goods
- Long-term strategic perspective and place-based approach
- Improving national investment framework and administrative capacity.





The material presented here is available online under the following links:

- [Inforegio - Ex post evaluation of the European Regional Development Fund \(ERDF\) and the Cohesion Fund for the programming period 2014-2020](#)
- [Inforegio - Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the evaluation of REACT-EU](#)
- [Inforegio - Mid-term evaluation of the cohesion policy programmes 2021-2027 financed by the European Regional Development Fund \(ERDF\), the Cohesion Fund and the Just Transition Fund \(JTF\)](#)

Inforegio is currently being redesigned to improve its modernity and appeal for readers. Please share any suggestions.

In addition to SWDs and EC Report, the supporting studies will be published by the end of October 2025. Some of them will feature ad hoc content, while most will include:

- [final study report,](#)
- [country fiches,](#)
- [case studies.](#)

Where to access the evaluations?



Thank you



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