



Cohesion policy support to brownfield redevelopment

Dr Sander Happaerts

Smart and Sustainable Growth Unit, DG REGIO

2014-2020 investment framework (1)

Smart Growth

- 1 Research & innovation
- 2 Information and communication technologies (ICT)
- 3 Competitiveness of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

Sustainable Growth

- 4 Shift towards a low-carbon economy
- 5 Climate change adaptation & risk prevention
- 6 Environmental protection & resource efficiency
- 7 Sustainable transport & key network infrastructures

Inclusive Growth

- 8 Employment & support for labour mobility
- 9 Social inclusion & combating poverty
- 10 Education, skills & lifelong learning
- 11 Institutional capacity building & efficient public administration

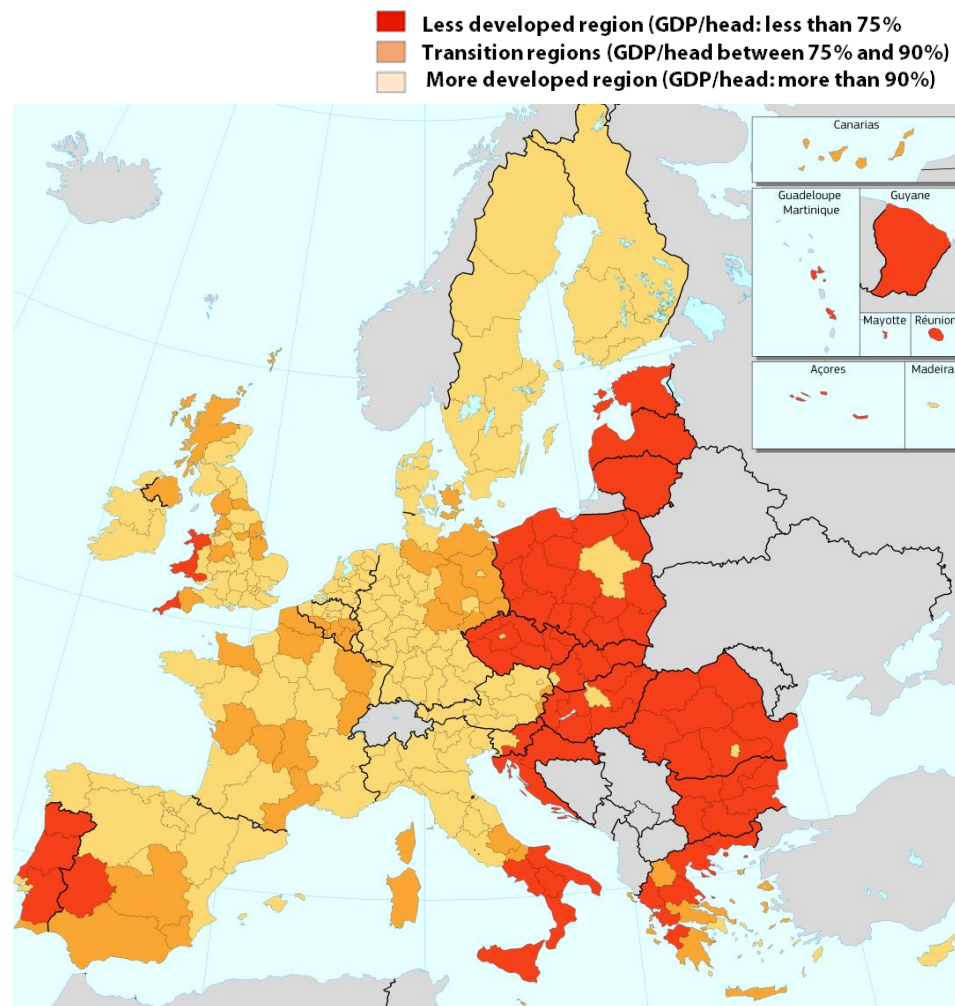
translated into Fund-specific investment priorities

2014-2020 investment framework

Integrated framework for regional and urban development

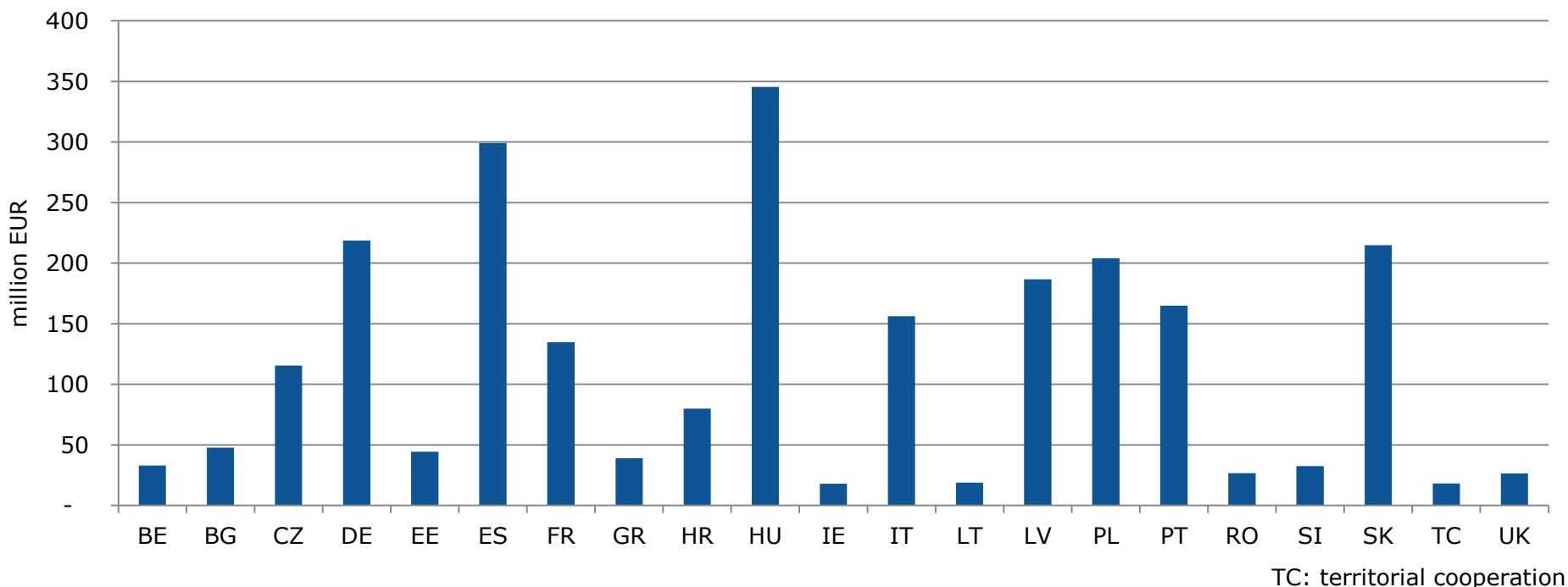
With direct and indirect investments relevant for soil:

- Revitalisation of brownfield sites
- Clean-up of polluted sites
- Urban renewal
- Rehabilitation of former military land
- Closing of old mines
- Closing of illegal landfills
- Biodiversity restoration
- Green infrastructure
- Prevention of erosion
- ...



2014-2020 allocations and selection

- Rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land: 2.4 billion EUR allocated by 20 MS



- Selection rate in December 2018: 49%

Broader context of structural change

- Cohesion policy accompanies structural change in EU regions
- Industrial transition: harnessing regions in the era of globalisation
- Smart specialisation approach: diversification based on strengths



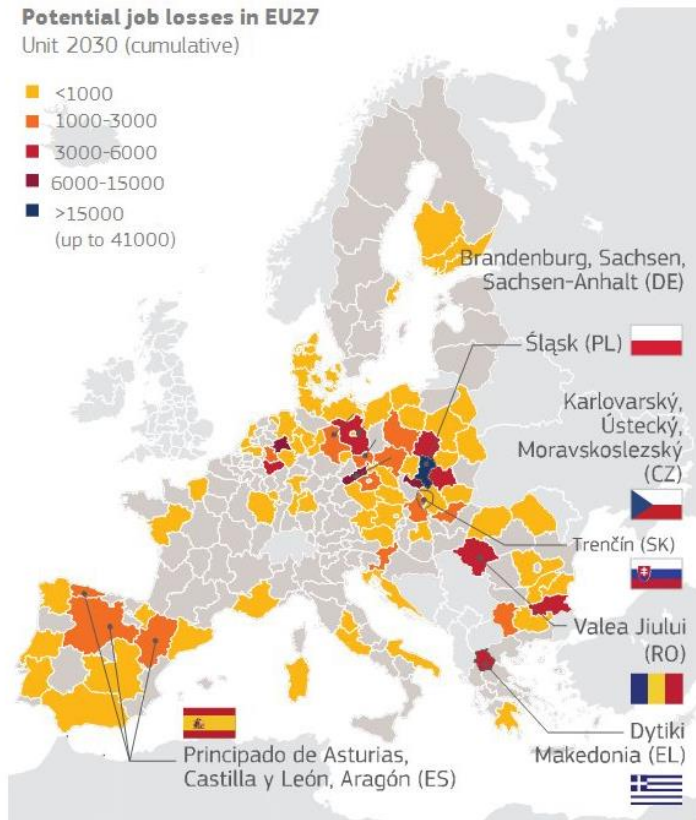
Testing new approaches

- Pilot actions on smart specialisation
- Initiative to support coal regions in transition

EU planning well ahead for the transition in coal regions

Potential job losses in EU27

Unit 2030 (cumulative)



Source: European Commission (DG JRC, DG REGIO).



COHESION POLICY 2021-2027



Some highlights of the Commission proposal



A modern, dynamic cohesion policy

Modern investment

- Focus on transition to smart, low-carbon economy
- Stronger conditions & link to European Semester
- Comprehensive performance data (in near real time), open data

Simple, flexible, dynamic

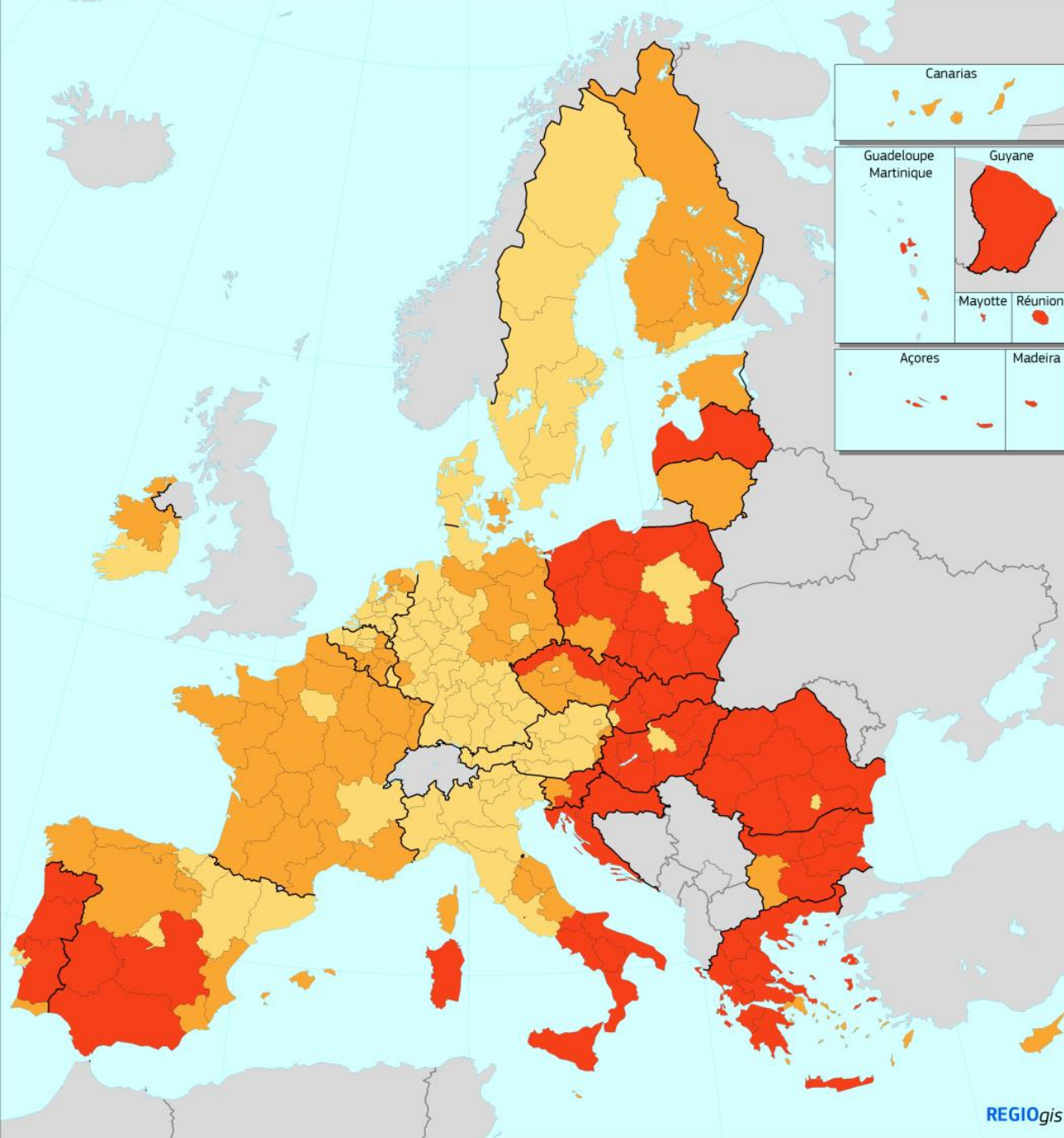
- 7 funds, 1 regulation (50% shorter)
- 80 key administrative simplifications
- Faster implementation (return to n+2)
- Responsive to emerging needs (migration, economy)

For all regions

- Balanced and fair "Berlin method"
- 75% to poorest regions, where most needed
- Tackling emerging needs and economic transition across the EU

New regional eligibility map

2021-2027



Index, EU-27 = 100

- < 75% (less developed regions)
- 75% - 100% (transition regions)
- >= 100% (more developed regions)

REGIOgis



European
Commission

GDP/head (PPS) by NUTS2 region, average 2014-2015-2016

Thematic menu

What's new?

- Shorter, flexible menu of 5 policy objectives, breaking sectoral silos
- A new, place-based, cross-cutting policy objective for ERDF - PO 5
- Capacity building and cooperation with partners within and outside Member States - horizontal priorities in all specific objectives
- Additional specific objectives for Interreg

Why helpful?

- Limits cases where integrated actions are programmed under more than one PO
- *Example: Policy objective "Smarter Europe":*
 - Research and innovation
 - Digitalisation
 - SMEs
 - Skills
 - Education



Policy objectives

11 objectives are simplified and consolidated into 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

ERDF: PO 1-5

Cohesion Fund: PO 2-3 (excl. broadband)

Policy objective 2

A greener, low-carbon Europe (including energy transition, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk management)

- (i)** promoting energy efficiency measures;
- (ii)** promoting renewable energy;
- (iii)** developing smart energy systems, grids and storage at local level;
- (iv)** promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience;
- (v)** promoting sustainable water management;
- (vi)** promoting the transition to a circular economy;
- (vii)** **enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution;**

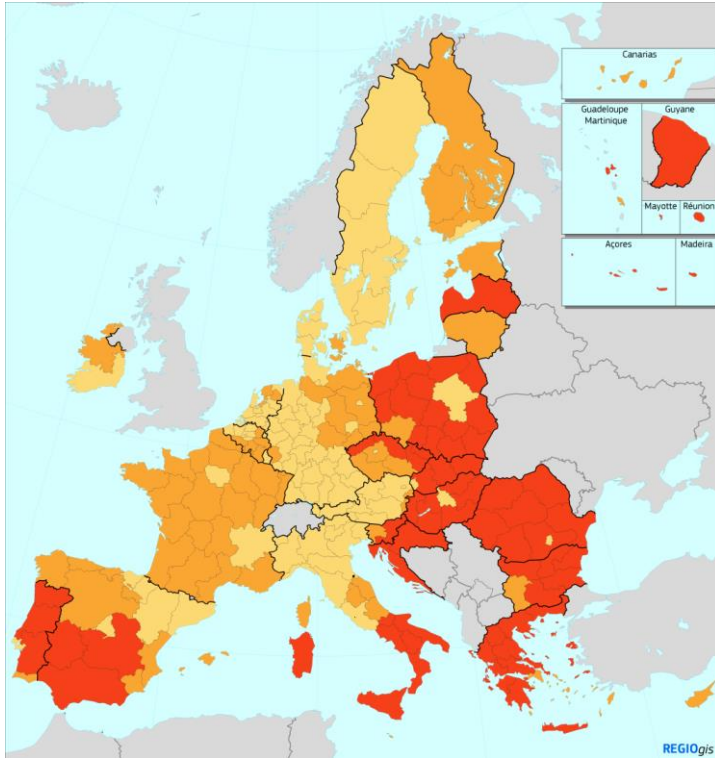
ERDF thematic concentration

- Maintaining spending in the key areas for growth and jobs
- At national level based on GNI per head => flexibility

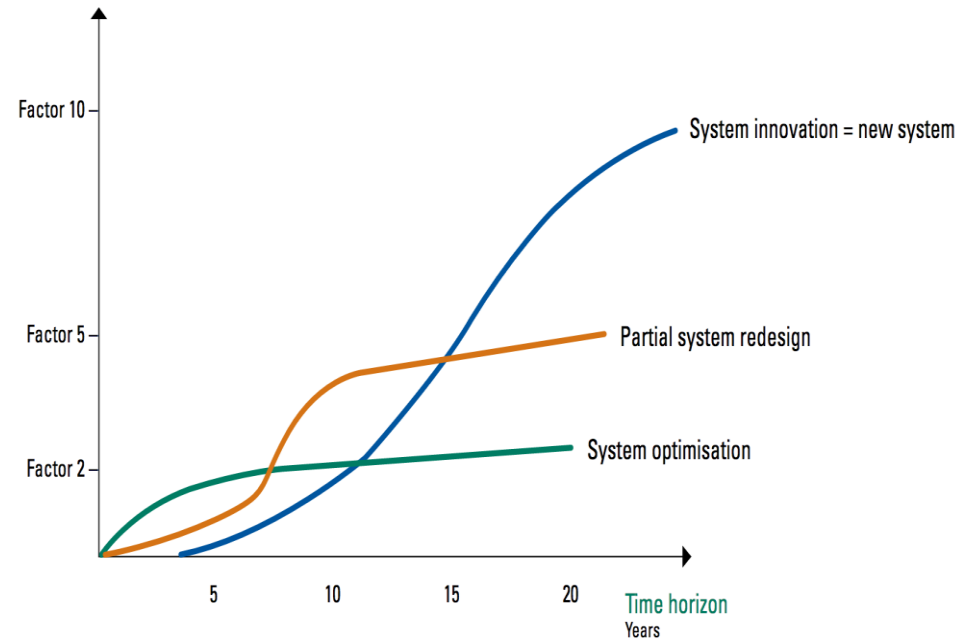
For countries with:	minimum % PO1 ("smarter Europe")	minimum % PO2 ("greener, low carbon Europe")
GNI below 75%	35%	30%
GNI 75-100%	45%	30%
GNI above 100%	60% and PO1 + PO2 min. 85%	

- 6% of budget to urban development, delivered through local development partnerships (can overlap with above)

Long-term perspective: sustainability transitions



Improvement in environmental efficiency



Source: UNEP

Key policy challenge:
Linking regional policy with sustainability transitions

REGIOSTARS

2 0 1 9



1. Smart growth - Promoting digital transformation
2. Sustainable growth - Connecting green, blue and grey
3. Inclusive growth - Combatting inequalities and poverty
4. Urban development - Building climate-resilient cities
5. Topic of the year 2019 - Modernising health services

Apply until 9 May via ec.europa.eu/regiostars



Questions or comments?

Dr Sander Happaerts, policy analyst on sustainable growth
DG REGIO, Smart and Sustainable Growth Unit

Sander.Happaerts@ec.europa.eu

+32 2 295 82 14

ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/
cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu

Back-up slides

Project example: Inčukalns lagoons

- Clean-up of acid tar ponds (25,000 m²)
- Improvement of near-surface groundwater, surface water, soil and subsoil



⇒ compliant with drinking water and urban waste water directives

⇒ fit for use for forestry

- Operational Programme Latvia 2007-2013
- ERDF investment EUR 21,000,000

Policy objective 1

A smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation

- (i) enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies;
- (ii) reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies and governments;
- (iii) enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs;
- (iv) developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship;

Sustainable urban development

- New dedicated specific objective for integrated development of urban areas
- 6% of ERDF to go to urban development, delivered through local development partnerships via various tools
- Requirement for local development strategies – local ownership
- European Urban Initiative: a coherent approach to capacity building, innovative actions, knowledge and policy development and communication