European Commission

EUROPE'S BUDGET

Cohesion at the core of EU's future

JULY 2025

Cohesion Policy is one of the pillars of the EU budget for the period 2028-2034. From building transport and energy infrastructure, supporting innovative small and medium-sized enterprises, to supporting sustainable urban and rural development initiatives, Cohesion Policy will invest in regions all over the EU and will leave no one behind.

Why is this a priority?

- Despite progress, 29% of the EU's population or around 130 million people still live in regions with GDP per capita below 75% of the EU average
- To make sure every citizen has opportunities to thrive in the place they call home
- To let every region and citizen contribute to and benefit from the prosperity and opportunities brought by the EU's Single Market
- To harness the potential of each region to build a stronger EU


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What is the Commission proposing?

- **Support to all regions,** and a high level of funding for cohesion
- Support for cohesion will be delivered through **National and Regional Partnership Plans** - bringing key EU funding tools under one roof
- **Concentration of support to less developed regions:** A minimum amount is safeguarded for less developed regions
- **Provisions for targeted measures** under the National and Regional Partnership Plans for cities, rural areas, eastern border regions, islands, and outermost regions
- **Synergies** with other policies to maximise the impact of each euro invested
- **A more flexible Cohesion Policy** better equipped to respond to crises and emerging priorities, while maintaining a long-term focus, with fewer thematic constraints, allowing regions to tailor interventions to their specific needs
- An approach based on shared management, partnership and multi-level governance with regional authorities fully involved in the design and implementation of plans

What does it mean in financial terms?

Around **EUR 450 billion** will be available for economic, social and territorial cohesion, including fisheries and rural communities

A minimum of **EUR 218 billion** secured for less developed regions, with a requirement for Member States to allocate funds to regions

The current European Solidarity Fund gets a tripled budget of **EUR 20 billion** within the **Facility** for Union Actions

The current Interreg programme for territorial cooperation will receive a higher budget of **EUR 10 billion**

Additional funding will be available from the EU Facility under the **EUR 11.5 billion support for Union Actions** including cities, inter-regional innovation and cross-border projects

Differentiated co-financing rates based on each region's level of development

How will the budget make a difference in this area?

- Cohesion is integrated with other funding programmes, amplifying its impact
- A single rulebook with other funding programmes, reducing red tape and simplifying access to funding for beneficiaries
- The National and Regional Partnership Plans will translate EU priorities into concrete, place-based actions – tailored for all types of territories

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