

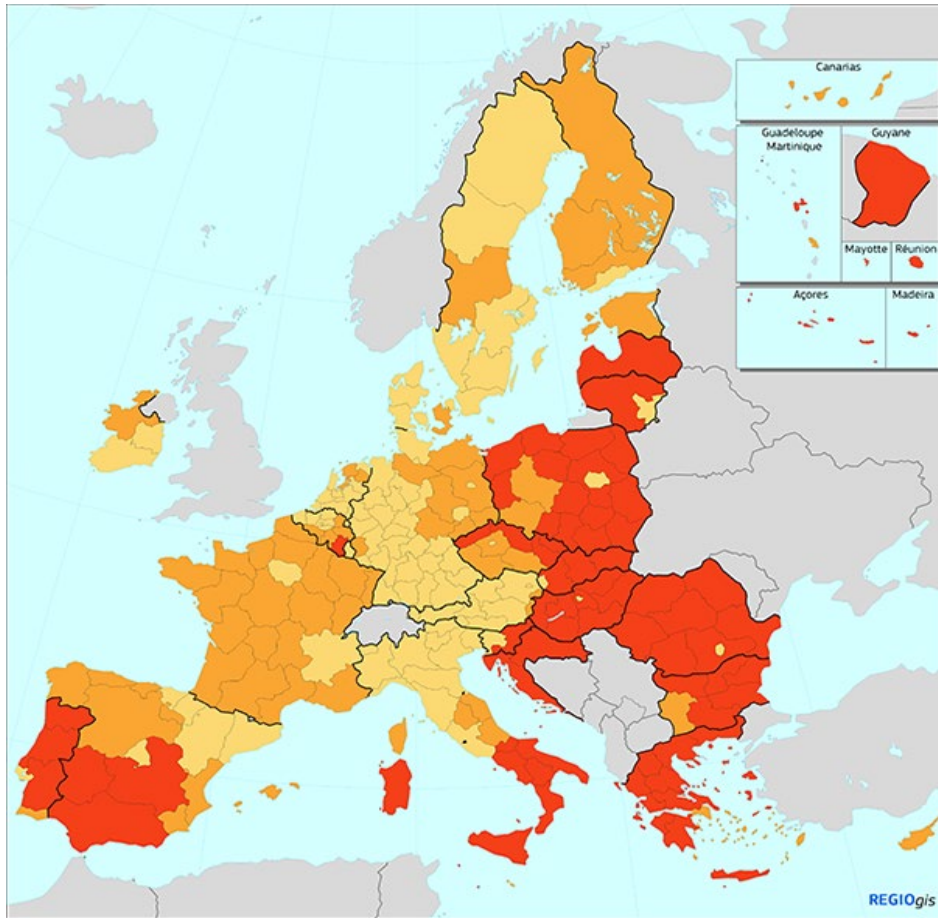


Cohesion policy Opportunities for territorial development

ESPON seminar 14-15 June

EC Regional and Urban Policy

Cohesion policy benefits all EU regions and types of territories



Investment for jobs and growth goal (ERDF and ESF+) eligibility, 2021-2027

Categories of regions

- Less developed regions (GDP/head (PPS) less than 75% of the EU-27 average)
- Transition regions (GDP/head (PPS) between 75% and 100% of the EU-27 average)
- More developed regions (GDP/head (PPS) above 100% of the EU-27 average)

GDP/head: average 2015-2016-2017

0 500 km

© EuroGeographics Association for the administrative boundaries

Cohesion Policy contributes to strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion in the European Union.

It aims to correct imbalances between countries and regions, and delivers on the Union's political priorities, especially the **green and digital transition**.

Cohesion policy 2021-2027 EUR 378 billion:

1) Investment for jobs and growth, funded by:

- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- European Social Fund+ (ESF+)
- Cohesion Fund (CF)
- Just Transition Fund (JTF)

2) Interreg - European Territorial Cooperation goal (ERDF)

3) Commission managed instruments and technical assistance

Territorial development in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)

- Article 174 of the TFEU refers to the Union developing and promoting actions leading to the strengthening of its economic, social and territorial cohesion in order to promote overall harmonious development,
- in particular aiming at reducing disparities between levels of development of the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions.
- Article 176 of the TFEU provides that the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is intended to help to redress the main regional imbalances in the Union.

Cohesion policy territorial dimension 2021-2027

- Cohesion policy is the **policy to territorialise the European goals and priorities** in close partnership with national, regional and local authorities and stakeholders.
- **Member States are required to analyse territorial disparities, needs and challenges** for their programmes and also outline an integrated approach for **addressing specific challenges and needs** of such territories.

Links with:

- The Territorial Agenda and the Leipzig Charter that share the same principles of a place-based and integrated approach, multilevel governance, just green transition.
- EU Longterm Rural Vision 2040 - action towards stronger, connected, resilient and prosperous rural areas and communities.
- Other EU Funds

Cohesion policy 2021-2027 framework - basis for investments at national, regional and local level



1. **A smarter Europe:** promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and **regional** ICT connectivity



2. **A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe**

(vii) enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity, and green infrastructure, including in **urban areas**, and reducing all forms of pollution



(viii) promoting sustainable multimodal **urban mobility**, as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy



3. **A more connected Europe**

(ii) developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, **regional and local mobility**, including improved access to TEN-T and **cross-border mobility**



4. **A more social and inclusive Europe**

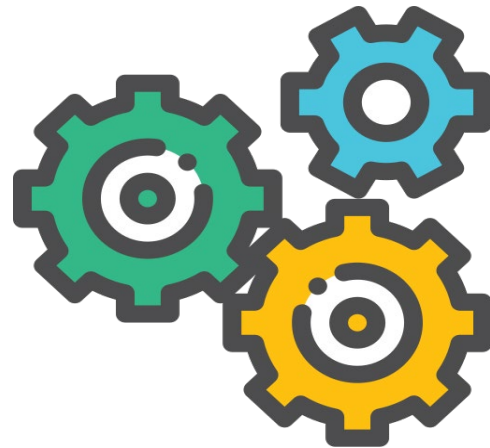
5. **A Europe closer to citizens** - fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic and

Horizontal issues: capacity building, cooperation outside the programme area
environmental development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and security in urban (min. 8%) and other areas

‘Europe closer to citizens’ approach to territorial and local development

Entails a **specific method** of integrated territorial development, that requires territorial or local development strategies that are place-based, integrated and involve relevant partners in the preparation and implementation of the strategy.

For urban areas:
Minimum 8% of
ERDF at national
level



Policy Objective 5 - a “cross-cutting **territorial policy objective**” for integrated and sustainable development of urban and other territories, to address diverse and interlinked territorial needs and challenges.

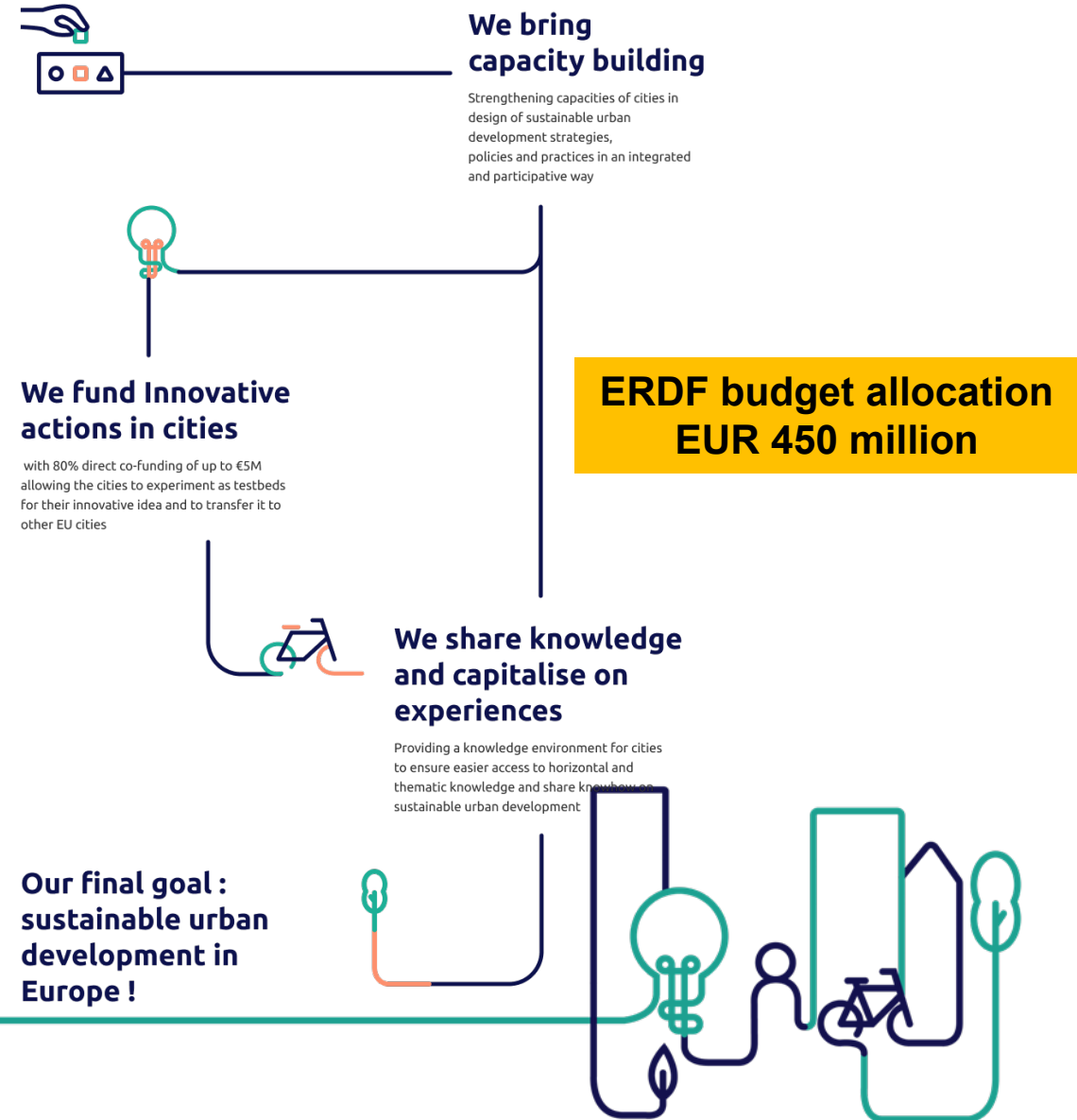
Urban-rural linkages,
functional areas

Territorial tools to use:
ITI, CLLD or other territorial
tool (national)

- [*Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies*](#)
- [*Handbook of Territorial and Local Development*](#)

The European Urban Initiative (EUI)

- Coherent support to EU cities
- Building on legacy of previous period:
 - Urban Innovative Actions
 - Urban Development Network
 - Urban Agenda for the EU, etc.
- Support to cities of all sizes
- Support to Urban Agenda for the EU and intergovernmental cooperation



EUI – capacity building activities

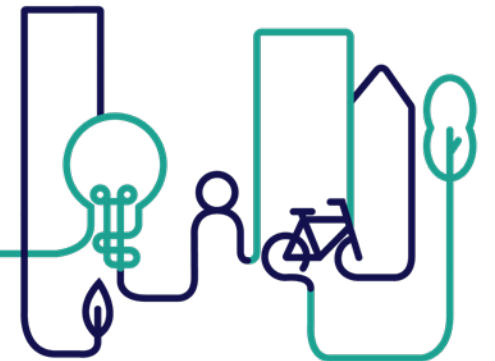
Overall target group

- EU cities of all sizes involved or interested in **Sustainable Urban Development (SUD)** within Cohesion policy

Two objectives

- **Improve the capacities of cities** to design and implement SUD strategies, policies and practices in an integrated and participative way
- **Improve the quality of the design and overall implementation** of SUD strategies, policies and practices

Three activities



Key dates for capacity-building calls & events

City-to-city exchanges: Call for applications

Closing **17 November 2023 12:00 CET** (applications approved on rolling basis)

Peer Reviews:

Call for Cities under Review: 4 April to 10 July, with an interim cut-off date on 19 June 12:00 CEST.

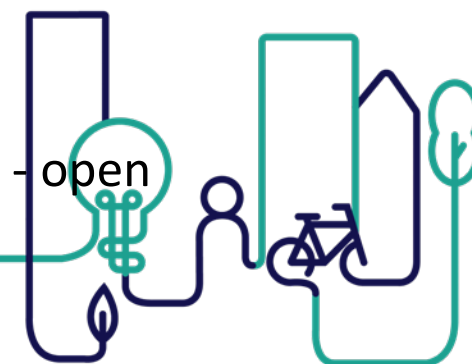
Call for Peers for peer review in Thessaloniki, 28-29 June (closed)

Capacity building events:

7-9 June: Delivering high-quality urban CLLD, Timisoara, Romania (closed)

Open to participants from a Cluster of 9 MS: EL, LT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, SE, DE

4-5 July: Supporting an integrated approach to urban innovation, Ljubljana, Slovenia - open
<https://www.urban-initiative.eu/capacity-building>



EUI – Innovative Actions

Innovative actions first call for proposals in support to [New European Bauhaus](#)

Budget:

EUR 50 million (10-12 projects)

Prompts for urban authorities:

- constructing or renovating in a spirit of circularity and carbon neutrality;
- preserving and transforming cultural heritage;
- adapting and transforming buildings for affordable housing solutions;
- regenerating urban spaces.

Cohesion policy targets:

ERDF specific objectives: 2.1, 2.6, 2.7, 4.3, 4.6, 5.1.

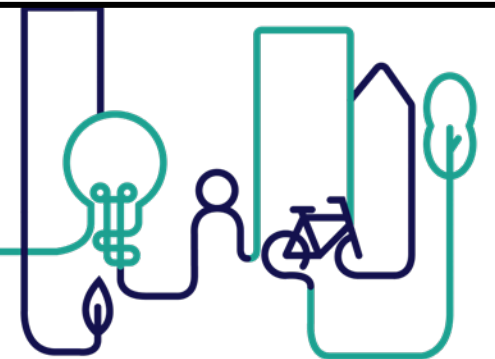
Timeline

**Opening of the call
October 2022**

Applicants seminars
October - December 2022

Closure of the call
19th January 2023

. Projects selection
Q2 2023



SECOND EUI-INNOVATIVE ACTIONS **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

ERDF budget:

EUR 120 million (24-26 projects)

3 topics:

- . **Greening cities**
- . **Sustainable tourism**
- . **Harnessing talent in shrinking cities**

Descriptions available [online](#)

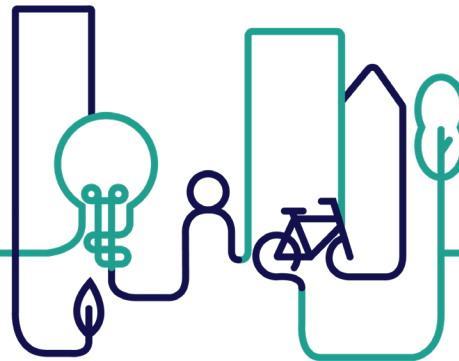
Timeline

Opening of the call
May 2023

Applicant seminars
June-July 2023

Closure of the call
October 2023

Projects selection
Q4 2023-Q1 2024



The projects must focus on one of the following three priorities:

- **Greening Cities** - to experiment with and deliver tangible innovative solutions for green and blue infrastructures, addressing biodiversity, pollution, and climate challenges;
- **Sustainable tourism** - to trigger long-term green and digital transformation, resilience and sustainability in the tourism sector. This could be achieved by diversifying tourism products, seeking a positive impact on local communities and the environment, fostering social inclusion and social innovation, and improving connections with smaller areas and towns;
- **Harnessing talent in shrinking cities** - placed-based and integrated pilot projects to test new solutions to retain and attract talents. This could be achieved by involving local communities and addressing the economic, social and environmental dimensions caused by the demographic transition.

Harnessing talent in Europe's regions

Context:

- A deep transformation of Europe's demography is taking place.
- COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT *The impact of demographic change – in a changing environment* emphasises the falling birth rates, ageing of EU population and migration flows – different impact on regions increasing regional disparities.
- EU workforce has decreased by 3.5 million people between 2015 and 2020, and is projected to further decline by an additional 35 million people by the year 2050.
- The changes will influence Member States' labour markets and welfare systems and lowers the EU's overall competitiveness and resilience.

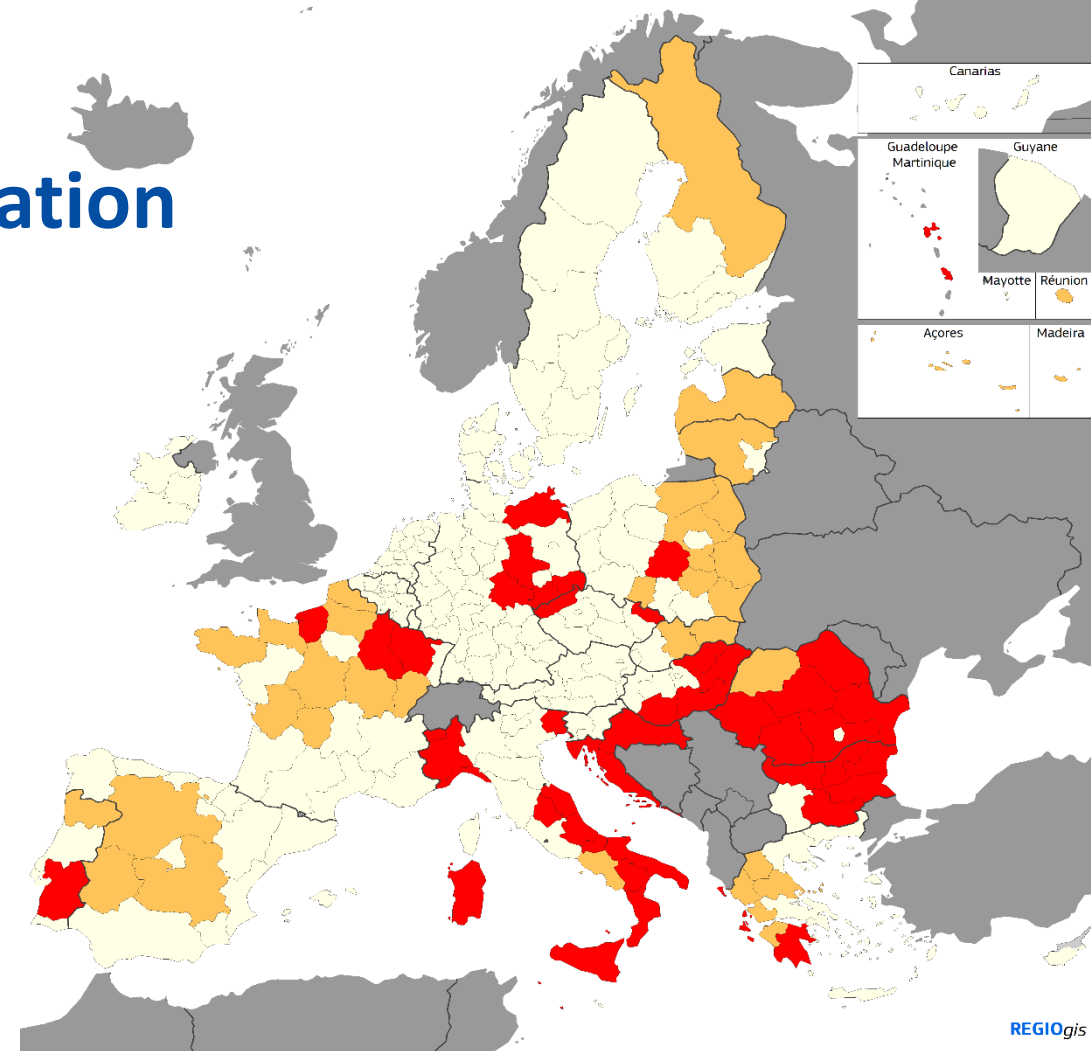
Communication on Harnessing talent in Europe's regions

- The Communication identifies 2 groups of regions:
 - **46 regions that are in a talent development trap**, facing an accelerating decline of their working age population, and low and stagnant share of persons with a tertiary education between 2015 and 2020 (**16% of EU population**).
 - **36 regions that are at risk of falling into a talent development trap in the future**, because they are significantly affected by net out-migration of their population aged 15-39 (**13% of EU population**).
- Most of the regions in talent development trap are **less developed** (GDP per capita of 64% of the EU average) and **more rural** than the rest of the EU (31% of its population living in rural areas, compared to 21% on average in the EU).

Regions identified in the Communication

In 16 countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain)

- **46 regions** affected by sharp workforce decline and low/stagnating share of tertiary educated in a talent development trap (*red*).
- **36 regions** with net out-migration of their younger cohort at risk of falling into a talent development trap (*yellow*).



Regions in a talent development trap and regions at risk of falling in a talent development trap

Category	
■	Shrinking working-age population and lagging level of tertiary education
■	Net out-migration of people aged 15-39
■	Other regions

Talent Booster Mechanism



1. Website - Harnessing Talent Platform



2. A new pilot project in 2023 to help regions to develop and implement strategies to train, attract and retain talents. Support will be provided to pilot regions selected on the basis of an open call.



3. A new initiative 'Smart adaptation of regions to demographic transition' to support regions tackling demographic transition locally. Benefiting regions will be selected on the basis of an open call.



4. Support from Technical Support Instrument (TSI) upon demand under the 2023 call, to design and implement reforms, to address the shrinking working-age population and the lack of skills.

5. Cohesion policy programmes provide assistance to stimulate innovation and opportunities for high skills jobs.

Thank you

Links:

Regional Policy: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy_en

Regional Policy funding: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding_en

Regional policy in your country: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/in-your-country_en

New European Bauhaus: Prizes 2023 on 22 June

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/whats-new/newsroom/05-10-2023-new-european-bauhaus-prizes-61-finalists-announced-the-public-vote-is-now-open_en

Harnessing Talent in Europe's Regions: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_23_145

Just Transition Fund: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/just-transition-fund_en