Towards smart, sustainable and inclusive growth:
Preparation for the programming period of European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020

European Commission, Directorate general for Regional Policy
Director Jean – Marie Seyler
Zagreb, 6 June 2013

Cohesion
Policy

Structure of the presentation

1. What is the EU cohesion policy?

2. What are the main features for the programmes 2014-2020?

3. Preparation of the Partnership Agreement between Croatia and the European Commission
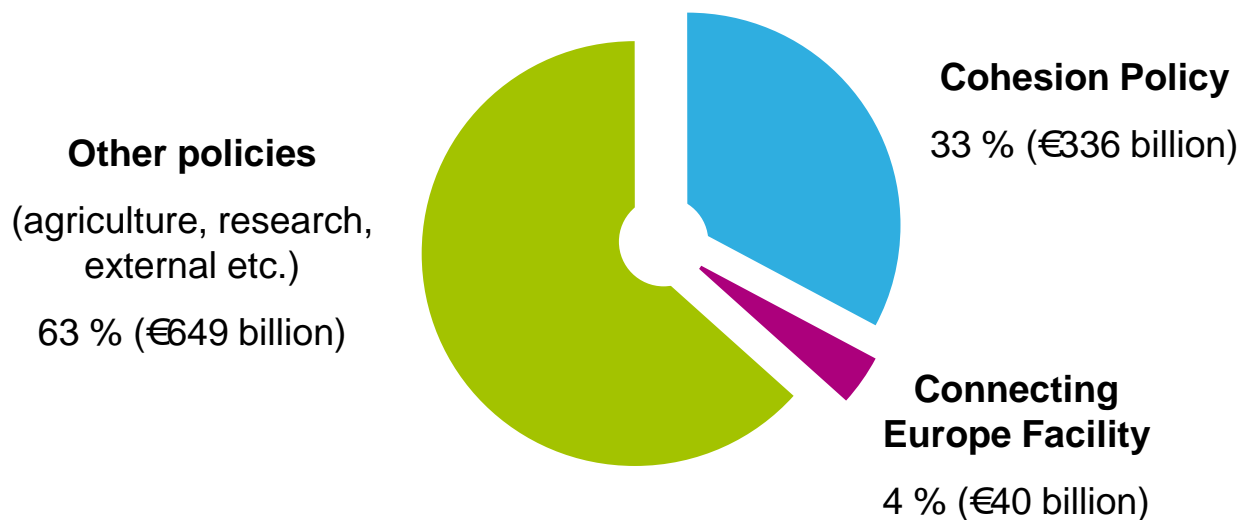
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1. What is the EU Cohesion Policy?

Objectives

- **Deliver the Europe 2020 strategy objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth**

  - ➢ **Reduce disparities between regions**

- **Focus on results**

- **Maximise the impact of EU funding**

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Proposed EU budget 2014-2020

"Ambitious but realistic" proposals issued by the Commission
in June 2011 for the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020

Cohesion Policy

33 % (€336 billion)

Other policies

(agriculture, research, external etc.)

63 % (€649 billion)

Connecting Europe Facility

4 % (€40 billion)

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2. What are the main features for the programmes 2014-2020?

Reinforcing effectiveness and performance

Thematic concentration

- Focus on the main investment priorities

Focus on results

- Common & programme-specific indicators, reporting, monitoring & evaluation

Performance framework for all programmes

- Clear and measurable milestones and targets
- Performance reserve: 7 % of national allocations (by Member State, fund and category of region)

Ex-ante conditionality

- Ensuring conditions for effective investment are in place

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More coherent use of available EU funds

Common Strategic Framework	Partnership Agreement	Operational Programmes

- Comprehensive investment strategy: aligned with Europe 2020 objectives

- Coherence with National Reform Programmes (Croatia: Economic Programme)

- Objectives and indicators to measure progress towards Europe 2020 targets

- Coordination: cohesion policy (ERDF, CF, ESF), rural development, maritime & fisheries funds

- Effectiveness: introduction of a performance framework

- Efficiency: reinforcement of administrative capacity, cutting red tape
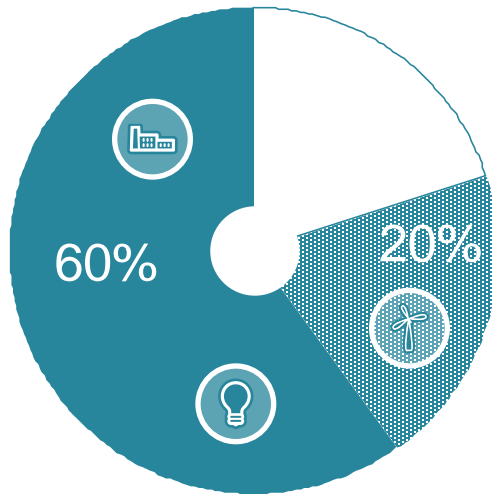
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A menu of thematic objectives

- Research & innovation
- Information and communication technologies (ICT)
- Competitiveness of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)
- Shift towards a low-carbon economy
- Climate change adaptation & risk prevention and management
- Environmental protection & resource efficiency
- Sustainable transport & removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures
- Employment & supporting labour mobility
- Social inclusion & combating poverty
- Education, skills & lifelong learning
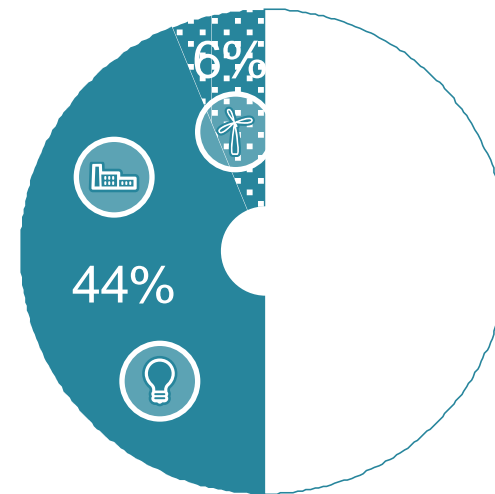- Institutional capacity building & efficient public administrations

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Concentrating resources to maximise impact

Concentration of ERDF investments

🌀 Energy efficiency & renewable energy   💡 Research & innovation   🏭 Competitiveness of SMEs

More developed & transitional regions

60%   20%

Less developed regions

6%   44%

Flexibility – different regions have different needs
Special arrangements for ex-convergence regions

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Reinforcing Territorial Cohesion

Focus on sustainable urban development

- At least 5 % of ERDF resources

New instruments offered

- Integrated Territorial Investments
- Community-Led-Local –Development

Territorial Cooperation

- Cross-border programmes
- Macroregional strategies (Danube and Adriatic/Ionian)

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3. Preparation of the Partnership Agreement between Croatia and the European Commission

Success factors for effective delivery of EU funds investment in Croatia

✓ structural reforms

✓ human resources

✓ ex-ante conditionalities (e.g. Strategy for smart specialisation, Active labour market policies, Strategy for reinforcing administrative efficiency including public administration reform)
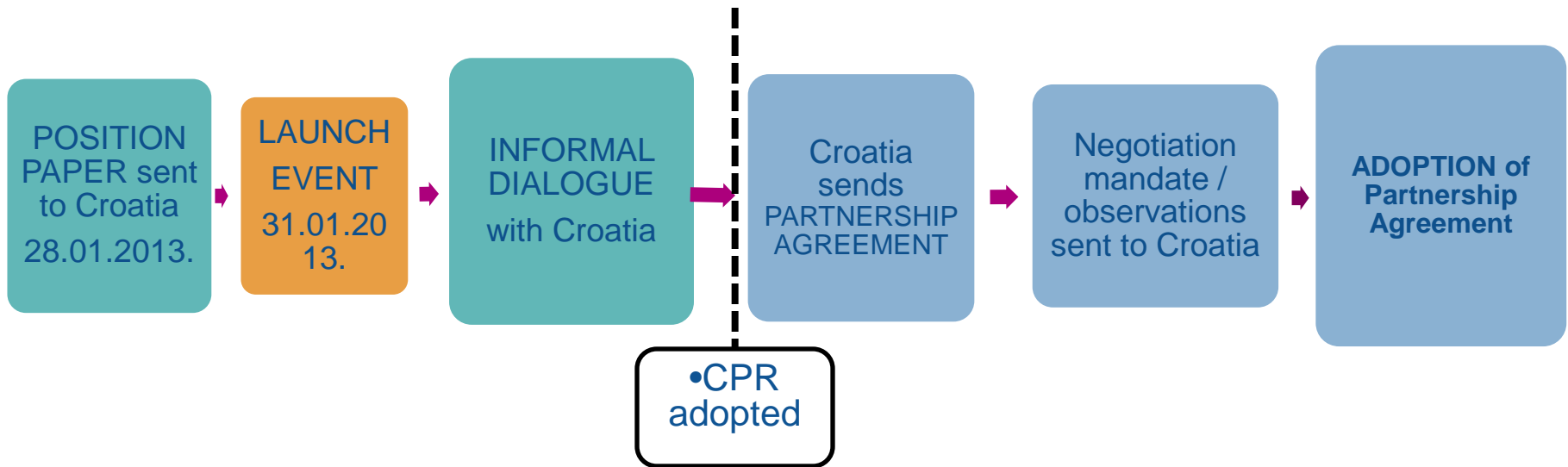
Also…

• Implementation of State Aid law

• Statistical systems and result indicators

• Tendering capacity and procedures

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Negotiation process for Partnership Agreement

| POSITION PAPER sent to Croatia 28.01.2013. | → | LAUNCH EVENT 31.01.2013. | → | INFORMAL DIALOGUE with Croatia | → | Croatia sends PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT | → | Negotiation mandate / observations sent to Croatia | → | **ADOPTION of Partnership Agreement** |

•CPR adopted

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Thank you for your attention!

More information:
www.inforegio.europa.eu

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