

# READ ME



## Your Guide to European Structural Funds for Dual-use technology projects





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## EDA Background and Objectives

The European Defence Agency is the place to go for European defence cooperation. The Agency supports the Council of the European Union and the Member States in their effort to improve the European Union's defence capabilities through cooperative projects and programmes.

Since its foundation in 2004, the EDA and its participating Member States have launched numerous collaborative projects, boosting Pooling & Sharing of capabilities in areas such as Air-to-Air Refuelling, Counter-IED, maritime surveillance, cyber defence or helicopter availability. At the same time, the Agency concentrates on enablers for cooperation like standardisation and certification; it also conducts research & technology projects, works on initiatives in support of the European defence industry, and advances an innovative dual-use approach.

One of the missions of the European Defence Agency (EDA) is to promote synergies with wider EU policies, including with a view to reinforcing the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base. In this regard, EDA initiated activities to facilitate the access to European Structural Funds for defence actors.

The goal is to promote greater innovation across the defence industry in Europe, with special focus on Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs), aiming key technological and industrial priorities to be maintained or developed in Europe and this in close cooperation with the European Commission.

EDA is pursuing three main objectives:

- raising awareness of defence actors as regards the use of European Structural Funds;
- supporting pilot projects to be submitted for co-funding from the European Structural Funds;
- facilitating the access to European Structural Funds through concrete advice.

To this respect in 2013 EDA organised:

- European Structural Funds seminars in Portugal, Bulgaria, Poland

and Ireland as well as workshops and informative sessions with selected industrial sectors at EDA premises in Brussels;

- National stakeholder's Round Tables and Coaching Sessions mobilizing more than 700 project holders coming from Ministries of Defence, academic institutions and defence industry, mainly SMEs, to get involved in the development of Smart Specialization Strategies in the Member States while familiarizing them with the European Structural Funds process.

Also, in response to an EDA's call, 72 projects from 12 Member States have been submitted for assessment in order to be used by EDA as pilot cases. Out of these projects:

- Seven supported by EDA on the development of the application folders to obtain European Structural Funds funding. Two applications have been submitted successfully, both announced as eligible, with one attracting already 60% co-funding from European Structural Funds.
- Beyond the seven selected projects, EDA provided guidance and advice on additional 44 projects, on how project holders could improve their eligibility to obtain European Structural Funds funding.

Results from EDA's work illustrate the high potential of the European Structural Funds to fund research and innovation for dual use projects.

Building on the successful outcomes, EDA is now providing a more systematic support to project holders through capacity building and transfer of know-how by:

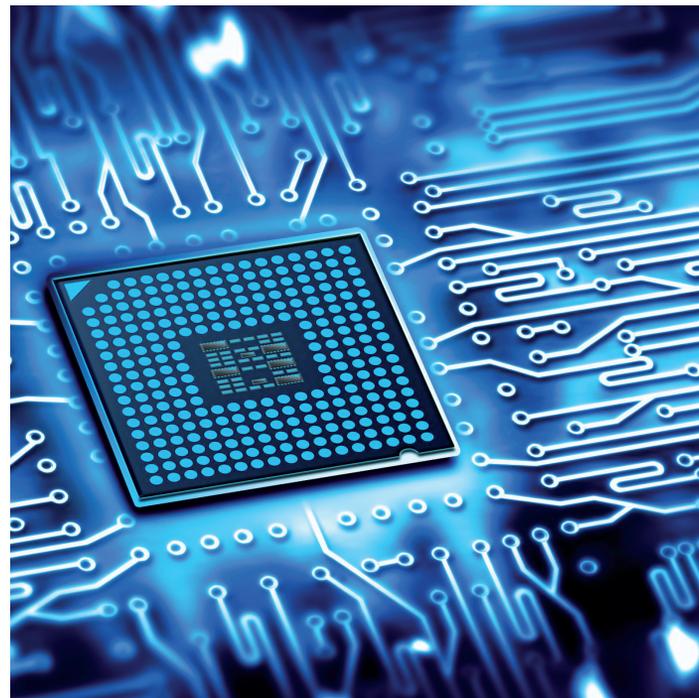
- Further supporting projects, with special focus on EDA identified technological and industrial priorities such as space, cyber, maritime surveillance, Remote Piloted Aerial Systems (RPAS) but addressing as well the potential the European Structural Funds provide for cross-border regional cooperation.
- Continue organizing seminars and training in the Member States, in order to familiarise and mobilise key stakeholders at national or regional level, and to influence better use of European Structural Funds for dual application projects in the field of defence and security.

As an additional service to the defence community, EDA in this Handbook- closely coordinated with the relevant services of the European Commission- comprises all the experience gained and methodology developed through EDA's pilot cases on European Structural Funds providing a comprehensive step-by-step process to be followed by defence actors in order to access European Structural Funds for dual-use projects.

Main objective of this Handbook is to bring all necessary technical support to project holders, focusing especially on Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs), to get access to European Structural Funds in the 2014-2020 financial framework.

## What is a Dual-Use Technology?

Dual-use research refers to studies and technology development that can satisfy more than one goal at any given time. Especially research at lower Technology Readiness (TRL) levels leads to technologies or products that can have either a military application or a civil application. Research in the areas of electronics, components, nanotechnologies, radars and sensors, telecom and ICT but also materials and propulsion or aeronautics in general don't have at the outset a specific defence or civil orientation. This research is called dual-use research: its findings and results can be shared between the civil community and the military community. This common or sharing of research at lower TRL levels has one benefit: expensive technologies which would otherwise only serve military purposes can also be used to benefit civilian commercial interests when not otherwise engaged. One such example is Internet or Mobile Telephony. It is exactly this type of research that seeks funding from the European Commission's programmes.



### European Commission's definition:

Goods and technologies are considered to be dual-use when they can be used for both civil and military purposes.

## EU Cohesion Policy Guidelines

The EU Cohesion Policy is first of all an investment policy aimed at reducing economic, social and territorial disparities between regions in Europe. Its budget is the second largest after that of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and directly targets projects on the ground.

It supports job creation, competitiveness, economic growth, improved quality of life and sustainable development. These investments support the delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy.

Supporting the creation and growth of businesses are key ways by which Cohesion Policy helps to boost regional economies.

### The Cohesion Policy (2014-2020)

The 2014-2020 Cohesion Policy will concentrate funding on a smaller number of priorities in line with the Europe 2020 Strategy, focus more on results and increase the use of conditionalities. SMEs are on top of the agenda for smart sustainable and inclusive growth.

The Common Strategic Framework (CSF) defines key actions to address EU priorities, provide guidance on programming applicable to all Funds, and promote a better coordination of the various EU structural instruments.

The Europe 2020 Strategy sets out Europe's Objectives from 2010 to 2020 to achieve smart sustainable and inclusive growth.

Within the new Cohesion Policy, smart specialisation has been proposed as an 'ex-ante conditionality'. This means that every Member State and region have to have such a welldeveloped strategy in place, before they can receive EU financial support through the Structural Funds for their planned innovation measures.

#### 11 objectives that drive ERDF strategy

1. Research & innovation
2. Information & Communication Technologies
3. Competitiveness of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)
4. Shift towards a low-carbon economy
5. Climate change adaptation & risk prevention and management
6. Environmental protection & resource efficiency
7. Sustainable transport & removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures
8. Employment & supporting labour mobility
9. Social inclusion & combating poverty
10. Education, skills & lifelong learning
11. Institutional capacity building & efficient public administrations

## The tools of the EU Cohesion Policy

The EU Cohesion Policy is financed by three main funds:

- the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF),
- the European Social Fund (ESF), both referred to as “Structural Funds”
- and the Cohesion Fund (CF).

These funds are based on the principles of co-financing and shared management. EU financial support always runs alongside national public or private financing. Depending on a number of socio-economic factors, the co-financing may vary between 50% and 85% of the total cost of interventions. The guidelines for ERDF and ESF actions are designed at European level, whereas implementation on the ground is managed by the relevant national or regional authorities in each Member State.

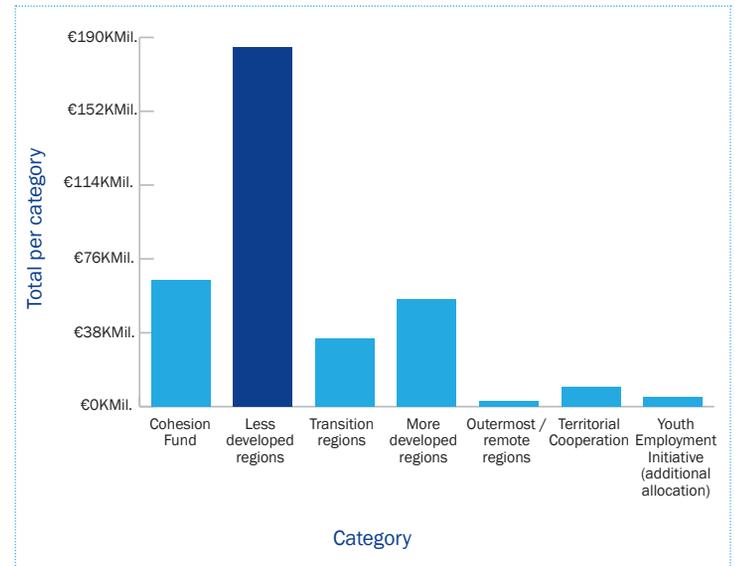
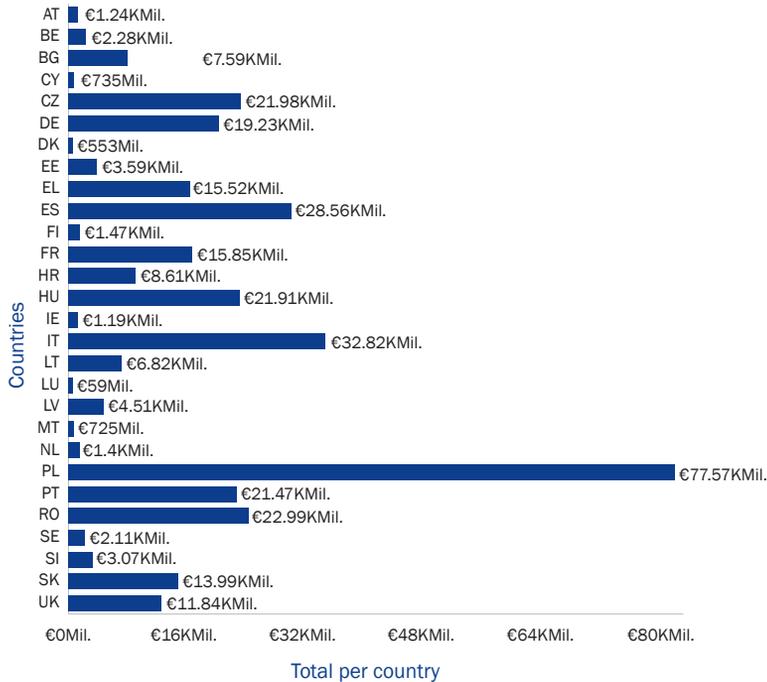
<b>EUROPE 2020: AN OVERVIEW</b>		
<b>HEADLINE TARGETS</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise the employment of the population aged 20-64 from the current 69% to at least 75%.</li> <li>• Achieve the target of investing 3% of GDP in R&amp;D in particular by improving the conditions for R&amp;D investment in the private sector, and develop a new indicator to track innovation.</li> <li>• Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% compared to 1990 levels or by 30% if the conditions are right, increase the share of renewable energy in our final energy consumption to 20%, and achieve a 20% increase in energy efficiency.</li> <li>• Reduce the number of Europeans living below national poverty lines by 25%, lifting 20 million people out of poverty.</li> </ul>		
<b>SMART GROWTH</b>	<b>SUSTAINABLE GROWTH</b>	<b>INCLUSIVE GROWTH</b>
<b>INNOVATION</b> EU flagship initiative ‘Innovation Union’ to improve framework conditions and access to finance for research and innovation so as to strengthen the innovation chain and boost levels of investment throughout the Union.	<b>CLIMATE, ENERGY AND MOBILITY</b> EU flagship initiative ‘Resource efficient Europe’ to help decouple economic growth from the use of resources, by decarbonising our economy, increasing the use of renewable sources, modernising our transport sector and promoting energy efficiency.	<b>EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS</b> EU flagship initiative ‘An agenda for new skills and jobs’ to modernise labour markets by facilitating labour mobility and the development of skills throughout the lifecycle with a view to increase labour participation and better match labour supply and demand.
<b>EDUCATION</b> EU flagship initiative ‘Youth on the move’ to enhance the performance of education systems and to reinforce the international attractiveness of Europe’s higher education.	<b>COMPETITIVENESS</b> EU flagship initiative ‘An industrial policy for the globalisation era’ to improve the business environment especially for SME’s, and to support the development of a strong and sustainable industrial base able to compete globally.	<b>FIGHTING POVERTY</b> EU flagship initiative ‘European platform against poverty’ to ensure social and territorial cohesion such that the benefits of growth and jobs are widely shared and people experiencing poverty and social exclusion are enabled to live in dignity and take an active part in society.

*For project initiators it is crucial to refer to the broader Europe 2020 objectives in the application in order to ensure optimum adequacy.*

# The budget breakdown for 2014-2020

## Allocation by Member State

### Total EU allocations of Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 (million €, current prices)



## The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

The ERDF supports the development and structural adjustment of regional economies, including the conversion of declining industrial regions. Funds can either be allocated as grants or financial instruments.

The ERDF contributes to all thematic objectives (see page 3), while establishing a number of investment priorities (IP) set out in the article 5 of Regulation n° 1301/2013. In the context of SME policies the following thematic objectives are of particular interest:

- **Objective n° 1:** strengthening research, technological development and innovation
  - IP1: enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence, and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest;
  - IP2: promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector.
- **Objective n° 2:** enhancing access to and use and quality of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)
  - IP1: extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies;
  - IP2: developing ICT products and services, e-commerce, and enhancing demand for ICT;
  - IP3: strengthening ICT applications especially for e-government.
- **Objective n° 3:** enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs
  - IP1: promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas;
  - IP2: developing and implementing new business models for SMEs;
  - IP3: supporting the creation and the extension of advanced capacities for product and service development;
  - IP4: supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes.
- **Objective n° 8:** promoting employment and supporting labour mobility
  - IP1: supporting the development of business incubators and investment support for self-employment, micro- enterprises;
  - IP2: supporting employment-friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas;

- IP3: supporting local development initiatives and aid for structures providing neighbourhood services to create jobs.
- **Objective n° 9:** promoting social inclusion and combating poverty
  - IP1: investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status...
  - IP2: providing support for physical, economic and social regeneration of deprived communities in urban and rural areas;
  - IP3: providing support for social enterprises;
  - IP4: undertaking investment in the context of community- led local development strategies.

Another key feature of the legislation is the increasing importance of financial instruments. Financial instruments can be loans, guarantee, equity, etc.

### The scope of support from ERDF specifically includes (according to article 3 of Regulation n° 1301/ 2013):

- (a) Productive investment which contributes to creating and safeguarding sustainable jobs, through direct aid for investment in SMEs;
- (b) Productive investment, irrespective of the size of the enterprise concerned, which contributes to the investment priorities set out in points (1) and (4) of Article 5, and, where that investment involves cooperation between large enterprises and SMEs, in point (2) of Article 5;
- (c) Investment in infrastructure providing basic services to citizens in the areas of energy, environment, transport and ICT;
- (d) Investment in social, health, research, innovation, business and educational infrastructure;
- (e) Investment in the development of endogenous potential through fixed investment in equipment and small-scale infrastructure;
- (f) Networking, cooperation and exchange of experience between competent regional, local, urban and other public authorities, etc.

Go to the *DG Regio projects database* for example of project financed by the ERDF: [ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/projects/stories/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/projects/stories/index_en.cfm)

## Projects involving stakeholders across borders

### **European Territorial Cooperation**

Cohesion policy encourages regions and cities from different EU Member States to work together and learn from each other through joint programmes, projects and networks.

The objective is financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with a total budget for the period 2014-2020 of €9.6 billion. There are three strands:

- Cross-border cooperation (INTERREG A) is the collaboration between adjacent areas across borders to promote integrated regional development. INTERREG A is by far the largest strand in terms of budget and number of programmes. During the last programming period 2007-2013, INTERREG IVA had 52 operational programmes, each covering part of a border area between EU Member States.
- Transnational cooperation (INTERREG B) involves non-contiguous regions from different countries that cooperate because they experience joint or comparable problems. During the last programming period 2007-2013, INTERREG IVB was divided in 13 different Operational Programmes (OPs). Each OP is led by a Secretariat and covers a specific part of the EU territory.
- Interregional cooperation (INTERREG C) was designed to improve the effectiveness of regional development policies and instruments through large-scale information exchange and sharing of experience (networks). It covers all regions in the EU.

### **How Dual-Use technology projects can be part of cross-border programmes?**

INTERREG A supports the creation of cross-border clusters such as Biovalley, the tri-national life sciences cluster co-financed by the Upper-Rhine programme, which gathers 600 companies. It supports research and development (R&D) as with the interdisciplinary research and transfer project TKV FO co-financed by the Deutschland – Nederland programme as well as the creation of new activities and the maintenance of a strong industrial fabric of SMEs through the Benefits project co-financed by the France (Channel)-England programme.

### **Transnational cooperation within OPs**

Interregional cooperation can also be included in ESF and ERDF OPs either using a horizontal approach (allowing for interregional cooperation in all areas covered by the OP) or through a dedicated priority axis (providing for interregional cooperation in one specific area). Including interregional cooperation in OPs allows for increased flexibility as project holders do not need to wait for the publication of an INTERREG call to present an application and have more room for manoeuvre when choosing their partners.

### **What's in it for Dual-Use Technology players?**

INTERREG B facilitates innovation and entrepreneurship in South Eastern Europe by fostering evaluation competencies in research, technology and innovation through the Eval-Inno project. It encourages i-labs and entrepreneurial creativity at large with the CREA NET 2.0 project co-financed by the South West Europe programme.

## How are structural funds managed?

Whereas the guidelines for European Structural Funds actions are designed at European level, implementation on the ground is managed by the relevant national or regional authorities in each Member State. These authorities prepare the OPs and select and monitor the projects. The decentralized management of Structural Funds implies that they are available through the Member States and regions and do not fund projects directly from Brussels. Funds are administered at national and/or at regional level. Applications should therefore not be sent to the EC but to the ERDF managing authority in your region or country.

**Operational programmes (OPs)** are multiannual programmes agreed on at national or at regional level and then negotiated with the European Commission. These programmes establish the funding priorities for the specific policy area or region and the amount of money from the different funding instruments that will be made available. OPs are either thematic or regional and are implemented through a wide range of organisations, both in the public and private sector. These organisations include national, regional and local authorities, educational and training institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the voluntary sector, various representative organisations for enterprise such as the various Chambers (namely the Chambers of Commerce, Chambers of Crafts etc.) as well as social partners, for example trade unions and work councils, industry and professional associations.

**The managing authority (MA)** is the department bearing the overall responsibility for an OP. MAs are organised either on a national, regional or local level and can be a public authority or a public/private body. They are responsible for the effective and efficient implementation of the Funds which implies a number of functions related to programme management and monitoring, financial management and controls as well as project selection. They are supported by one or several intermediate bodies. Together with Member States, MAs are responsible for ensuring that the communication strategy is implemented in a way to reach all citizens. MAs act as a contact point for the European Commission, certifying and auditing authorities as well as for project holders or potential beneficiaries.

Applications for ERDF investment are generally invited in response to time-limited calls for proposals issued by the MAs. However, the use of calls is spread in varying degrees across Europe and it is sometimes also possible to present a project in the framework of on-going programmes.

### Know your MA!

The managing authority is the reference point for region-specific up-to-date information on how exactly to apply for funding in your region. Indeed, application procedures vary according to countries and even from one region to another within the same country. Contact your managing authority, not only to know the priorities set in the operational programmes but also to be aware of open calls and of application procedures. To identify your managing authority, see Phase 2 page 15.

# Methodology overview to apply for ERDF

1

## Draft the Project Factsheet

### Who?

- Project stakeholders

### What?

- Scope of the project and value

### Why?

- The context of the project (EU, MS, region)
- The project objectives
- The relevance of the project to EU Policies, Regional Smart Specialization and the OP priorities

### Where?

- Location of the Project (Region where the project will be located)
- For Whom?
- Direct and indirect beneficiaries

### How?

- Project Management and team
- Calendar
- Budget (Income and charges)

### Outcome expected?

- Deliverables
- Direct and indirect economic, social and environmental impacts

2

## Identify the funding measure and assess the project eligibility

### Track the appropriate funding measure

- Identify the most appropriate Region to develop the project
- Identify the right European Structural Funds priority: ERDF, Transnational / Cross Border Cooperation
- Identify the Operational Programme and the right priority
- Identify the appropriate funding measures in the OPs
- Identify the specific eligibility rules and priority indicators

### Analyse the eligibility

- Check the timing of the application process
- Check the alignment of the project characteristics with the eligibility rules and priorities
- Control with the Managing Authority the project compliance with the Funding measure eligibility rules and selection priorities

### Control the compliance

- Check the compliance of the project with State aids rules

3

## Draft, test and submit the Application Form

### Fill-in the Application Form

#### Fill-in the 10 sections

- Identification of the Project Holder
- Project details
- Project Applicant
- Delivery partner
- Strategic Fit
- Rationale
- Estimated deliverables (Outputs/ results/ Impacts), Costs and Fundings
- Project management capacity and risk
- Compliance
- Applicant declaration and certification

### Check the compliance

- Meet the Managing Authority to check whether the project matches with eligibility criteria and selection priorities
- Adapt the project
- Check the compliance of the project with all EU requirements (publicity requirements, feasibility and market studies, environmental impact assessment and cost benefit analyses for large projects - above EUR 50 M)

### Submit the Application Form

- Submit the application in due time
- Answer any requests for clarifications

1

## Draft the Project Factsheet

2

Identify the funding measure and assess the project eligibility

3

Draft, test and submit the Application Form

**The Project Factsheet to fill in will provide data and information required to track the appropriate funding measure and check the compliance with the eligibility criteria and selection priorities.**

### Who

Description of the project holder (status, size, activities, consortium members' description for collaborative projects).

### What

The main scope of the project, the budget, proposed co-financing arrangements, the objectives. Details of income and charges.

### Why

Present the context, the rationale and the project value proposal. Describe the overall and the specific objectives of the project. Define how the project will support:

- the EU 2020 strategy: smart, sustainable and inclusive growth;
- the regional smart specialization (S3): each region will focus on a limited set of priority areas, in which it has already a competitive advantage. These smart specialisation strategies will help regions to tap into their innovation potential and build on particular assets and strengths;
- the OP, specific priorities and objectives.

### Where

Where will the project activities be located? Why has this location been selected? Other alternative locations?  
The location of the project to be funded must be consistent with the regional smart specialization (S3) (see page 13).

### For whom

What are the direct and indirect targets of the project (beneficiary groups)? Direct targets are the first beneficiaries of your action and directly affected by the project activities. Indirect targets will be affected by the project as well. Be very precise about how each target group will be impacted by the project activities and outcome.

### How

Which activities and means should be undertaken to achieve your qualitative and quantitative objectives? This data will be further developed at a later stage to provide details (human resources, method, action plan, equipment, etc). You will describe the project management to deliver the project in the best conditions of quality and to limit the risks related to three criteria: timing, budget and technical specifications.

### For which results

What concrete outcomes do you expect to achieve? Please note that these results should be measurable, i.e. deliverables. What criteria could be used to measure the success of each action? Try to demonstrate the projects added value with quantitative and qualitative indicators.

### Compliance assessment

Check the specific eligibility indicators and selection priorities. Verify the status and the size of eligible project orders, eligible charges, co-funding rate and beneficiaries.

# Methodology step by step

## Example of a Project Factsheet synthesis

### Key information

Type of project	Securing computer networks
Lead partner	Government
Project partner(s)	1 university and 8 companies
Budget estimate (EUR)	< EUR 6 M
Co-financing arrangements	ERDF: 50%



### Details on the project

Why	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• E-Crime is currently estimated to cost millions euros every year, through direct financial or intellectual property theft, disruption of communications or damage to business-critical data.</li><li>• Historically, such crimes have been notoriously difficult to detect and punish – partly because of their sheer technical complexity and partly because unseen attackers can strike at victims from hundreds or even thousands of miles away</li></ul>
Where	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UK</li></ul>
For Whom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase businesses' understanding of and appreciation for the wide range of online threats, how these threats can impact their bottom line – and, most importantly, how they can significantly reduce their risk exposure. The effort includes a central website, sharing of best practices across Europe and putting businesses in touch with e-crime police</li></ul>
How	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• By bringing together four police forces, specialized public sector organisations and expert commercial businesses to share and distribute the knowledge and intelligence needed for the safe and good functioning of on-line businesses</li></ul>
The results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Articles and policy documents have been distributed to more than 30 000 businesses</li><li>• 2 000 businesses have met with the e-Crime police</li><li>• One of the key features of the project was the launch of a European e-Crime Partnership, which involves a cross-border dialogue on best practices with partners in Poland, the Czech Republic, Sweden, Romania, Belgium, Spain, France and other UK regions</li></ul>



### Phase 2 is composed of three steps:

#### Track the appropriate funding measure

- Identify the most appropriate region to develop the project and get cofunding
- Identify the right European Structural Funds priority: regional competitiveness and employment (National Level), European Territorial Cooperation (Transnational / Cross Border Cooperation) in your country / region
- Identify the Operational Programme and the right priority
- Identify the appropriate funding measures in the OPs
- Identify the specific eligibility rules and priority indicators

#### Analyse the eligibility

- Check the timing of the application process
- Check the alignment of the project characteristics with the measures eligibility rules and priorities
- Control with the Managing Authority the project compliance with the Funding measure eligibility rules and selection priorities

#### Control the compliance

- Check the compliance of the project with State aids rules

#### Check the compliance of the project with the regional smart specialization:

1. Identify potential locations where the project could be developed:
  - The project must have a legal entity in the region to be selected.
  - The region selected must have a smart specialization strategy matching with the project.
2. Analyse the S3 platform website to identify the best region, according to project specificities and regional smart specialization
3. Select the final location to develop the project and get the co-funding.

#### Use the InfoRegio web portal to find information

A good starting point is to use the European Commission's central web portals (which are available in EU languages, although some of the downloadable documents have limited language availability) to research funding opportunities. You will find information on OPs, categories of regions and legislation, for the kind of initiative you would like to set up to support SMEs or entrepreneurship in your region.

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.cfm)

# Methodology step by step

## Practical exercise

### S3 Platform, JRC website provides all information and details to analyse the most appropriate regions

The website provides presentation of smart specialisation strategies of the regions that have participated in the S3 Platform Peer reviews and in most cases background material that provides context to the cases and direct link to the Region's website.

The underlying rationale behind the Smart Specialisation concept is that by concentrating knowledge resources and linking them to a limited number of priority economic activities, countries and regions can become – and remain – competitive in the global economy. This type of specialisation allows regions to take advantage of scale, scope and spillovers in knowledge production and use, which are important drivers of productivity.

#### Facts & Figures

- Capital:** Bydgoszcz
- Size:** 17,972.0 km<sup>2</sup>
- Population:** 2,098,370
- Regional GDP:** 16,116
- % of the National GDP:** 4.54
- Regional GERD:** 0.56 %
- % of Unemployment:** 11.1

**Region's Web Site**

#### Contacts

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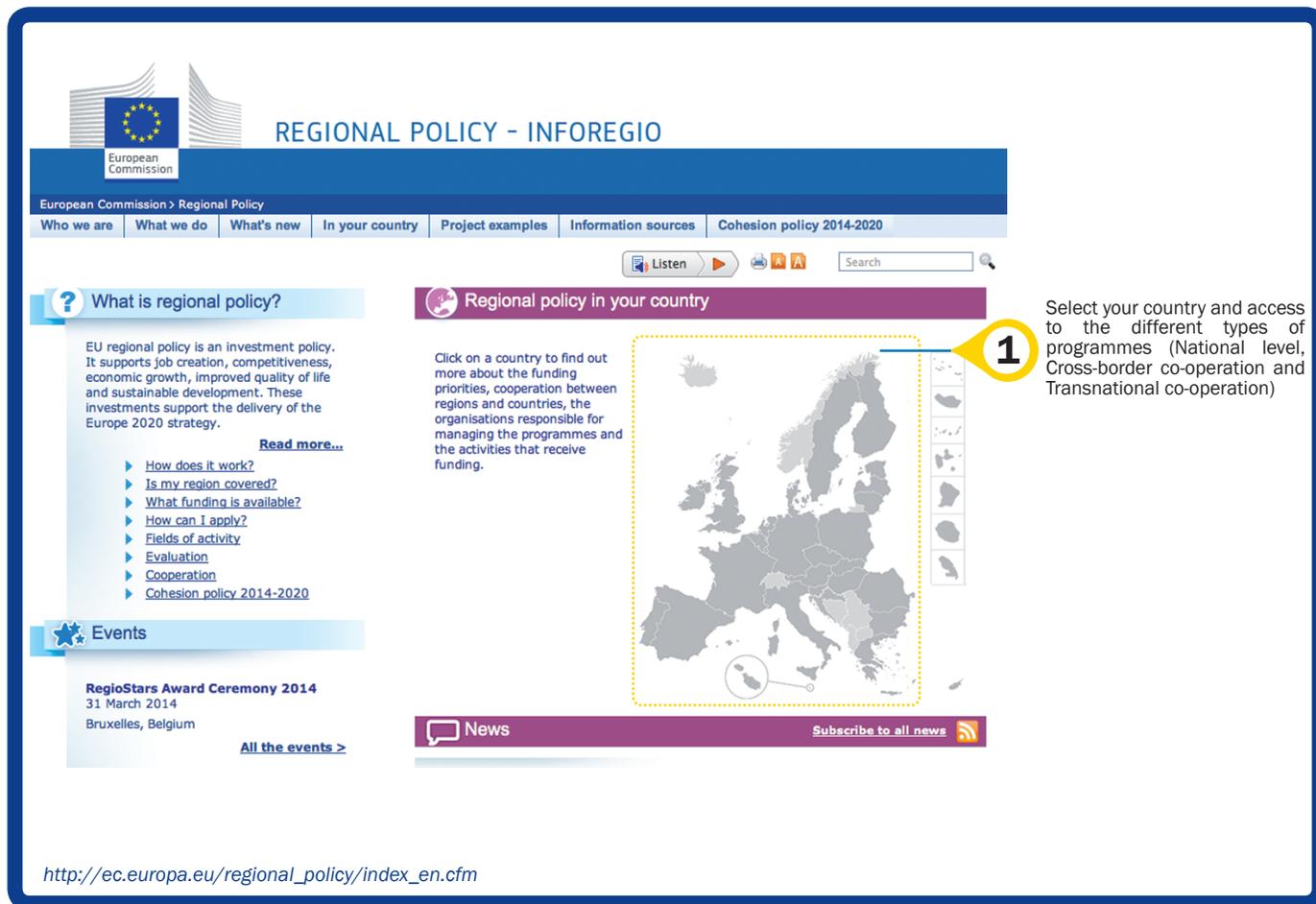
Email: innowacje@kujawsko-pomorskie.pl | Phone: 0048-660 75 49 17



Description	Capabilities	Target Markets	EU Priorities
Food safety and personalized food – processing, fertilizers, packages	1. Research and development within manufacturing and industry	1. Manufacturing and industry	2. Food security and safety
Medicine, medical services, health tourism	1. Services	1. Services	1. Public health and security 2. Public health and well-being
Culture, arts, creative industries	1. Creative, cultural arts and entertainment 2. Creative, arts and entertainment activities	1. Creative, cultural arts and entertainment 2. Creative, arts and entertainment activities	1. Cultural and creative industries 2. Development of regional cultural and creative industries
Tools, molds and plastic products	1. Manufacturing and Industry 2. Basic metals and of fabricated metal products	1. Manufacturing and industry	1. KETs 2. Advanced manufacturing systems
Automotive, technical transportation means, industrial automation	1. Manufacturing and industry 2. Motor vehicles and other transport equipments	1. Manufacturing and industry	1. KETs 2. Advanced manufacturing systems
Plastic products	1. Manufacturing and industry 2. Rubber and plastic products	1. Manufacturing and industry 2. Chemicals and chemical products	1. KETs 2. Advanced manufacturing systems

<http://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/regions/PL61/tags/PL61>

## InfoREGIO: the first source to track ERDF fundings



The screenshot shows the 'REGIONAL POLICY - INFOREGIO' page from the European Commission. The page features a navigation menu with options like 'Who we are', 'What we do', 'What's new', 'In your country', 'Project examples', 'Information sources', and 'Cohesion policy 2014-2020'. A search bar and a 'Listen' button are also present.

**What is regional policy?**  
 EU regional policy is an investment policy. It supports job creation, competitiveness, economic growth, improved quality of life and sustainable development. These investments support the delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy.  
[Read more...](#)  
 ▶ [How does it work?](#)  
 ▶ [Is my region covered?](#)  
 ▶ [What funding is available?](#)  
 ▶ [How can I apply?](#)  
 ▶ [Fields of activity](#)  
 ▶ [Evaluation](#)  
 ▶ [Cooperation](#)  
 ▶ [Cohesion policy 2014-2020](#)

**Regional policy in your country**  
 Click on a country to find out more about the funding priorities, cooperation between regions and countries, the organisations responsible for managing the programmes and the activities that receive funding.

**1** Select your country and access to the different types of programmes (National level, Cross-border co-operation and Transnational co-operation)

**Events**  
**RegioStars Award Ceremony 2014**  
 31 March 2014  
 Bruxelles, Belgium  
[All the events >](#)

**News** [Subscribe to all news](#)

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.cfm)

# Methodology step by step

**2** Access Operational programme summary for identifying main priorities

**3** Access to Managing authorities contact to get the full operational programme with more details

Source: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/atlas2007/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/atlas2007/index_en.htm)

### Details of the OP in Poland

#### Presentation of Priority Axis 1

**1. 1 Support for scientific research for establishment of a knowledge-based economy**

Sub-measure 1.1.1 Research projects using the foresight method-measure

- Indicative eligible costs:
  - Remuneration for people directly involved in implementation of a project covered with support (research and development personnel, technical and auxiliary staff), expenditure on purchase of materials or resources, software and software licences,
- Indicative beneficiaries: - scientific entities, universities, National Centre for Research and Development, entities implementing foresight projects (non-profit entities e.g. foundations and associations), government of voivodeship, non-profit companies established with participation of mentioned entities, etc.

InfoRegio website constitutes the first source of data and information for European Structural Funds. In parallel, Member States have developed information platforms fully dedicated to European Structural Funds in local languages including specific national rules and priorities.

This example is elaborated on the datas from the last programming period 2007-2013 as the information is not yet published on the website for the current period.

## Presentation of the Polish Operational Programme priorities, 2007-2013 period

### Detailed Objective

**1**

Improvement  
of innovativeness  
of enterprises

- **Priority Axis 1**  
Research and development of new technologies
- **Priority Axis 2**  
R&D infrastructure
- **Priority Axis 3**  
Capital for innovation
- **Priority Axis 4**  
Investments in innovative undertakings
- **Priority Axis 5**  
Diffusion of innovation
- **Priority Axis 6**  
Polish economy on the international market
- **Priority Axis 7**  
Information society - establishment of electronic administration
- **Priority Axis 8**  
Information society - increase of innovativeness of economy
- **Priority Axis 9**  
Technical assistance

### Detailed Objective

**2**

Improvement  
of competitiveness  
of Polish science

- **Priority Axis 1**  
Research and development of new technologies
- **Priority Axis 2**  
R&D infrastructure
- **Priority Axis 4**  
Investments in innovative undertakings
- **Priority Axis 5**  
Diffusion of innovation
- **Priority Axis 9**  
Technical assistance

### Detailed Objective

**3**

Strengthening  
of the role of science  
in economic  
development

- **Priority Axis 1**  
Research and development of new technologies
- **Priority Axis 2**  
R&D infrastructure
- **Priority Axis 3**  
Capital for innovation
- **Priority Axis 4**  
Investments in innovative undertakings
- **Priority Axis 5**  
Diffusion of innovation
- **Priority Axis 6**  
Polish economy on the international market
- **Priority Axis 9**  
Technical assistance

### Detailed Objective

**4**

Increasing the share  
of innovative products  
of the Polish economy  
in the international  
market

- **Priority Axis 1**  
Research and development of new technologies
- **Priority Axis 2**  
R&D infrastructure
- **Priority Axis 3**  
Capital for innovation
- **Priority Axis 4**  
Investments in innovative undertakings
- **Priority Axis 5**  
Diffusion of innovation
- **Priority Axis 6**  
Polish economy on the international market
- **Priority Axis 9**  
Technical assistance

### Detailed Objective

**5**

Creation of  
permanent  
and better  
workplaces

- **Priority Axis 1**  
Research and development of new technologies
- **Priority Axis 2**  
R&D infrastructure
- **Priority Axis 3**  
Capital for innovation
- **Priority Axis 4**  
Investments in innovative undertakings
- **Priority Axis 5**  
Diffusion of innovation
- **Priority Axis 6**  
Polish economy on the international market
- **Priority Axis 9**  
Technical assistance

### Detailed Objective

**6**

Growth of the use  
of information  
and communication  
technologies  
in the economy

- **Priority Axis 2**  
R&D infrastructure
- **Priority Axis 4**  
Investments in innovative undertakings
- **Priority Axis 7**  
Information society - establishment of electronic administration
- **Priority Axis 8**  
Information society - increase of innovativeness of economy
- **Priority Axis 9**  
Technical assistance

# Methodology step by step



## Fill-in the Application Form\*

### Fill-in the 10 sections

- Identification of the Project Holder
- Project details
- Project Applicant
- Delivery partner
- Strategic Fit
- Rationale
- Estimated deliverables (Outputs/ results/ Impacts), Costs and Fundings
- Project management capacity and risk
- Compliance
- Applicant declaration and certification

\* For an example, check out the *Outline Application Form Guidance ERDF-GN-2-001* available on the internet.

## Check the compliance

- Meet the Managing Authority to check whether the project matches with eligibility criteria and selection priorities
- Adapt the project
- Check the compliance of the project with all EU requirements (publicity requirements, feasibility and market studies, environmental impact assessment and cost benefit analyses for large projects - above EUR 50 M)
- Submit the Application Form

## Submit the application in due time

- Answer any requests for clarification

### Project application procedure differs from countries

Project application procedures differ substantially from one region to another. To fill-in the sections of the Application Form, check which guides and users' manuals have been established in your region / country.

In order to provide potential project holders with real-life examples. The applications are published in the original language together with an English translation and are available under the following link: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/regional-sme-policies/applicationexamples>.

## Success Story

Project granted under the programming period 2007-1013 with the support of EDA

### Key information

Project title	Turtle
Lead partner	A. Silva Matos Metalomecanica S.A.
Project partner(s)	PLY, INESC PORTO, ISEP, CINAV,
Budget estimate (EUR)	€1, 300, 000
Co-financing arrangements	ERDF. Around 60% of the total budget



### Details on the project

Why	The European Sea is a large border of Europe and has a strategic priceless importance. Sovereignty in European waters requires an adequate presence, which should not be limited to the surface. The overall objectives of the project are to develop key technologies to enable sustainable and long-term presence in the deep ocean. It will consist of the development of high performance structures capable of dealing with mechanical pressure, development of materials with improved performance in weight / stiffness and lower manufacturing costs, and development of a supervisory architecture and control that allows remote operation of the system. This technology was already proven in the aeronautic and space industries.
Where	Porto region
For Whom	Production industry in advanced underwater marine systems and underwater robotics, organizations and businesses with operations at sea, allowing the development of solutions automation and robotics for underwater operation, governmental institutions involved in the management and supervision of the sea and ocean resources.
How	Involvement of skilled and experienced human resources of four promoters. Thus was formed a highly skilled technical/sales team, which has a vast knowledge and expertise in key areas of the project and previous experience of working together.
The expected impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new markets related to mining in the deep sea and the security are targeted</li> <li>• Independence achieved through a technology license which is soil and water operations oriented</li> <li>• Development of technology with a high commercial value</li> </ul>

## Focus on major ERDF projects

### Definition of major projects

As part of an operational programme or operational programmes, the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund may support an operation comprising a series of works, activities or services intended in itself to accomplish an indivisible task of a precise economic or technical nature which has clearly identified goals and whose total cost exceeds EUR 50 000 000 (a 'major project'). Financial instruments shall not be considered major projects.

Major projects represent a substantial share of Union spending and are frequently of strategic importance with respect to the achievement of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Therefore it is justified that operations of substantial size continue to be subject to approval by the Commission.

### Information to be submitted to the Commission

(art 91 of the common provision regulation COM (2012) 496 final)

The Member State or the managing authority shall submit the following information on major projects to the Commission as soon as preparatory work has been completed:

- (a) body responsible for implementation and its capacity
- (b) description of the investment and its location
- (c) total cost and total eligible cost
- (d) feasibility studies, including options analysis
- (e) cost-benefit analysis, including economic and financial analysis, and risk assessment
- (f) analysis of environmental impact, taking into account climate change issues
- (g) consistency and expected contribution to the relevant priority axes of the operational programme(s)
- (h) financing plan, physical and financial indicators
- (i) timetable

Major projects submitted to the Commission for approval shall be contained in the list of major projects in an operational programme. The list shall be reviewed by the Member State or the managing authority two years following the adoption of an operational programme and may at the request of the Member State be adjusted in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 26(2), in particular to include major projects with an expected completion date by the end of 2022.





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