



Cohesion Policy and Environment

*Challenges and opportunities
in 2007-2013*

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The new Cohesion Policy

Objectives, instruments and regulations



Objectives and instruments

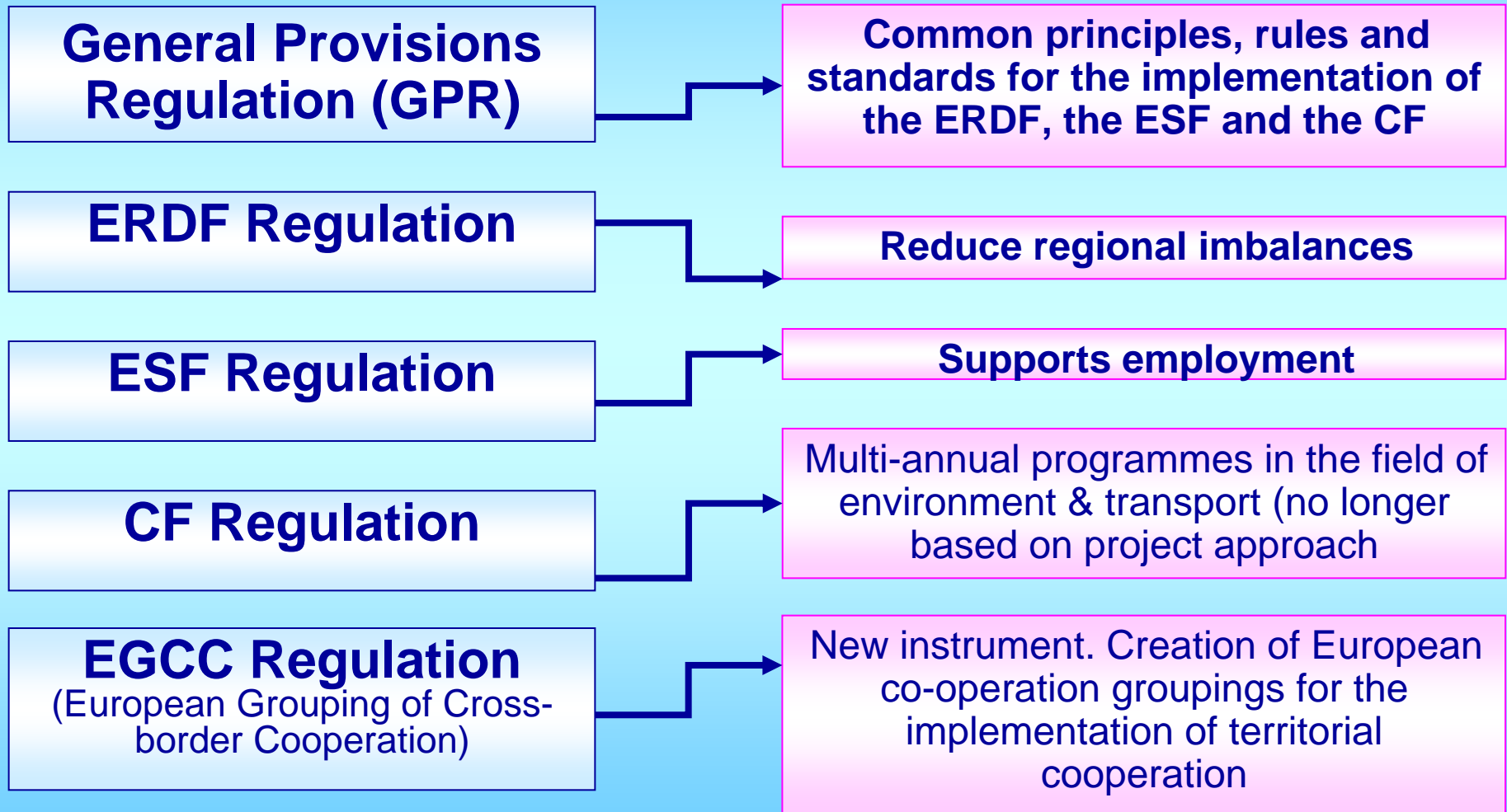
3 Objectives	3 Financial instruments
Convergence*	ERDF (European Regional Development Fund)
	ESF (European Social Fund)
	CF** (Cohesion Fund)
Regional competitiveness and employment	ERDF
	ESF
European territorial cooperation	ERDF

* *Regions whose GDP is <75% of the EU average*

** *MS whose Gross National Income <90% of EU average*



The five main Regulations





Strengths and opportunities

The new Cohesion Policy Regulations:

strengths and opportunities

*for preserving, protecting and promoting
the quality of the environment*



Convergence – ERDF assistance

Eligible actions relevant for environment (1)

<i>Proposed Article 4 - ERDF Reg.</i>	<i>Environmental legislation & policy</i>
Water supply, urban wastewater treatment	Water directives
Waste management	Waste directives
Air quality	Air pollution TS; Air directives
Desertification (prevention, control & fight)	Soil TS
Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control	IPPC Directive
Aid to mitigate the effects of climate change	Climate Change
Rehabilitation of physical environment: contaminated sites; brownfield	Urban (TS); Soil TS
Promotion of biodiversity & nature protection, including investment in Natura 2000 sites	Habitats and Birds Directives; Natura 2000



Convergence – ERDF assistance

Eligible actions relevant for environment (2)

Proposed Article 4 – ERDF Reg.	Environmental legislation & policy
Aid to SMEs to promote sustainable production patterns	Environmental Technologies Action Plan (ETAP)
Preventing natural & technological risks	Risks. Soil and Marine TSs
Sustainable tourism (developing natural assets and cultural heritage)	Habitats and Birds Directives; Urban TS; Sustainable use of resources TS
Transport: Integrated strategies for clean transport , intermodal systems, reduction of environmental impacts	Air pollution TS; Urban TS; Climate change
Energy : integration, renewable energies and energy efficiency	Air pollution TS; Climate change
Health investments increasing quality of life	Environment and Health Action Plan
Education and vocational training	Green jobs; ENV awareness



Competitiveness – ERDF assistance

Eligible actions relevant for environment (3)

<i>Proposed Article 5 – ERDF Reg.</i>	<i>Environmental legislation & policy</i>
Rehabilitation of physical environment: contaminated sites; brownfield	Urban (TS); Soil TS
Infrastructure linked to biodiversity , investments in Natura 2000 sites where this contributes to sustainable economic development & diversification of rural areas	Habitats and Birds Directives; Natura 2000
Energy : renewable, energy efficiency and efficient energy management systems	Climate change; Air pollution TS
Sustainable public transport , particularly in urban areas	Urban TS; Climate change; Air pollution TS
Natural and technological risks	Risks; Urban, Soil TS; Marine TS
Aid to SMEs including cleaner technologies	Environmental Technologies Action Plan (ETAP)
Protection of natural & cultural heritage , sustainable tourism	Habitats and Birds Directives



Convergence - Cohesion Fund assistance

Eligible actions relevant for environment (4)

<i>Proposed Art. 2 - CF Reg.</i>	<i>Environmental legislation & policy</i>
Environment priorities assigned to EU under policy and action programme on environment	Directives on water, waste, air pollution, nature protection etc.. 6th EAP
Energy efficiency & renewable energy	Air pollution TS; Climate change
Intermodal transport systems and their interoperability	Air pollution TS; Climate change
Management of road, sea and air traffic	Air pollution TS; Climate change
Clean urban transport and public transport	Air pollution TS; Climate change; Urban TS



European Territorial Cooperation – ERDF assistance

Eligible actions relevant for environment (5)

<i>Proposed Art. 6 – ERDF Reg.</i>	<i>6th EAP / environmental legislation</i>
Water management: river basins, coastal zones, marine resources, wetlands	Water Directives; Marine TS; ICZM; WFD
Maritime security; natural & technological risks	Risk Prevention; Marine TS
Protection of natural heritage in support of economic development and sustainable tourism	Habitats and Birds Directives
Sustainable urban development	Urban TS
Innovation	ETAP



ESF and environment

- ESF can be used for promoting green jobs, education, training, awareness in environmental issues

 - Under Convergence objective, “*an appropriate amount of ESF resources shall be allocated to capacity building*”, including:
 - ✘ training,
 - ✘ networking measures,
 - ✘ strengthening social dialogue
-



Cohesion Policy:

weaknesses and threats

from an environmental point of view...



Weaknesses and threats – (1)

-
- Most of the important environmental priorities (both for horizontal and vertical environmental integration)

are ***potentially*** eligible for funding. ***However,***

➔ ...they represent *options*, but not obligations: MS decide their priorities and how to spend their funds.



Weaknesses and threats – (2) Lisbon earmarking

Earmarking to support Lisbon priorities

- The assistance co-financed by Funds shall be targeted on the EU priorities of promoting **competitiveness** and creating **jobs**:
- To this end, the Commission and the MS shall ensure that:
 - × 60 % of expenditure for the Convergence objective
 - × and 75 % for the competitiveness objective**are set for the above-mentioned priorities.**



Weaknesses and threats - (3) Lisbon earmarking

■ Categories of expenditure subject to earmarking are listed in Annex IV of GPR



✗ .. but no environmental category *stricto sensu* (only sustainable energies + eco-technologies + clean urban transport)

■ Obligation for EU-15 MS



✗ Voluntary for new MS

■ Commission and MS concerned may decide to **complement** in an **appropriate manner** the categories of Annex IV



✗ Environmental categories, inter alia, may be reintroduced, according to specific needs of MS concerned



Weaknesses and threats - (4) ***Environment and the Cohesion Fund***

Assistance from the CF shall be given to actions in the following areas, ensuring an appropriate balance :

(i) Trans-European transport networks (TENs)

(ii) Environment falling within the priorities assigned to the Community environmental protection policy (...)

+ areas related to sustainable development:

- ***energy efficiency and renewable energy***
- ***transport*** outside the TENs: rail, river, sea transport, intermodal transport systems and their interoperability, management of road, sea and air traffic, clean urban transport and public transport



Weaknesses and threats – (6)

Environment and the Cohesion Fund

The definition of the environmental projects eligible has been extended to new categories of projects (energy & transports):

-  *Real risk that the investments in waste & water management would receive a reduced allocation (in favour of clean energy & transport)*

Vigilance is necessary to ensure an appropriate share for environmental projects (in particular in the new MS)



Weaknesses and threats – (5) *Environment and the Cohesion Fund*



«The appropriate balance of assistance shall be agreed in *partnership* between Member States and the Commission.»

The CF Regulation does not define what is “the appropriate balance”:

- ✗ 50/50?
- ✗ Specific national needs? (40/60 etc.)

No fixed share for environment in the CF

- ✗ The former 1994 Regulation provided to ensure a “suitable balance”, but in practice a 50/50 balance between environment and transport was ensured and respected in the former programming periods

Art. 2(2) CF Regulation



Cohesion Policy:
Some challenges



Challenges (1)

Application of the SEA Directive

- ❖ SEA Directive will be applied to assess the environmental impact of the programmes
 - ❖ Directive has not been transposed by all the MS
 - ❖ Lack of experience with the Directive (entered into force in July 2004)
 - ❖ Assessments have to be carried out before the adoption of the programmes, as well as consultations (public + environmental authorities)
 - ❖ If not, difficulties in approving Ops (lack of compliance)
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Challenges (2)

Halting the loss of biodiversity

The European Council in March 2006 has endorsed the following line for action:

“urgent implementation of the EU objective of halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010, notably by integrating its requirements into all relevant Lisbon agenda policies (...)”

How to incorporate this priority into the programmes of the Structural Funds?

How the establishment and operation of the Natura 2000 network can be supported?



Challenges (3) Participation and partnership

Partnership is an important principle of the new programming period

- ✘ Concerns not only the participation of the environmental authorities but also the environmental partners
- ✘ Covers the preparation, the implementation, the monitoring and the evaluation of the OPs

See General Provision Regulation, art. 10



Thank for your attention..