



An Introduction to Structural Funds and Health

Assembly of European Regions

Influence, Knowledge, Action

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First Regional Meeting, London, 15 November 2011,
Pomorskie EU Regional Office



outline

- Commission proposals for post-2013
- Opportunities for health inequalities -related investment
- Timeframe - what should we be doing now?



...about AER

- Independent network of regions
- Founded in 1985
- 270 regions from 34 countries + 16 interregional organisations





Future Cohesion Policy

- Thematic concentration - link to Europe 2020
- Economic, social and territorial cohesion
- Focus on results, impact & EU added value



Future Cohesion Policy

	Today	Post-2013
CP budget	€ 347 billion	€ 376 billion
% total EU budget	35%	36.7%

- Less developed regions - € 162.6 billion
- Transition regions - € 38.9 billion
- More developed regions - € 53.1 billion



Instruments

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Infrastructure; energy; information society

European Social Fund (ESF)

Employment policies - training

European Territorial Cooperation (ETC)

Cross-border or transnational - exchange of experience

Cohesion Fund

Environment, trans-European transport networks

Connecting Europe facility

Transport, energy & ICT - Commission-led

Outermost + sparsely populated regions



Thematic Priorities

1. Strengthen research, technological development and innovation
2. Enhance access and use of quality ICT
3. Enhance competitiveness of SMES
4. Shift to low-carbon economy
5. Promote climate change adaptation
6. Protect environment
7. Sustainable transport
8. Employment and labour mobility
9. **Social inclusion and combating poverty**
10. Education, skills and LLL
11. Institutional capacity and efficient public administration



ERDF opportunities for investment

ERDF scope: invest in health and social infrastructure

- Promote innovation
- ICT: deploying broadband; developing ICT products and services; strengthening ICT applications for e-health
- Promote social inclusion and combat poverty: invest in health and social infrastructure which contribute to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status and transition from institutional to community based services



ESF opportunities for investment

ESF mission: adaptation to change; high levels of employment, education and training

- Min 20% allocated to promoting social inclusion and combating poverty
- employment and labour mobility through active and healthy ageing
- invest in education and life-long learning: upgrade skills and competences of the workforce
- Social inclusion/combating poverty: access to affordable, sustainable and high-quality services, incl. health care and social services of general interest
- Enhance institutional capacity: efficient public administration, capacity building for stakeholders



ETC opportunities for investment

ETC scope: cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation

- all 9 thematic priorities apply
- BUT thematic concentration: 4 themes for CB and TN cooperation; all themes for IR cooperation
- employment and labour mobility through active and healthy ageing



Lessons from the past

Important lessons from past periods:

- Be strategic!
- Make sure health is included in the national/regional operational programme - start next year
- Make sure you include a variety of stakeholders
- Think health everywhere - indirect investment also has an impact
- **START NOW!**



Timeline

2012 -2013: debate and adopt MFF + legislative proposals for cohesion policy post-2013 (EP + Council)

2012: Commission Common Strategic Framework + public consultation

2013: Commission and MS negotiate National Reform Reference Frameworks and Operational Programmes

2014: new cohesion funding programmes enter into force



Key Milestones

National Reform Programmes

- Annual
- implementing Europe 2020

National Strategic Reference Frameworks

- Negotiated with Commission and adopted prior to programmes' launch
- national strategy re cohesion policy - regions' and stakeholders' contribution is matter of national procedure
- Select thematic priorities and outline proposed actions

Operational Programmes

- National or regional/ specific per policy area or general thematic approach
- list how money will be spent with indicative annual budgets
- Can be renegotiated with Commission but complex
- Regions normally identify own priorities and then negotiate with national government to have these reflected in final OP



Thank you!

Get in touch!

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