

Results of the Policy Analysis

EU Funding Possibilities for Urban-Rural Partnerships in Europe

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 - Leipzig / Halle with Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt
 - Turin – Piedmont
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 - Prague – Central Bohemia
 - Wrocław – Lower Silesia
- **Conclusions**



Background of the Policy Analysis

- **Analysis of potentials to support administrative co-operations in urban regions through EU Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) for the purpose of joint project development**
- **Comparison with the previous funding period 2007 – 2013**
- **Questionnaire-based investigation, supported by the project expert group:**
 - a) **Central German Metropolitan Region Halle / Leipzig with Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt**
 - b) **Prague with Central Bohemia**
 - c) **Turin with Piedmont**
 - d) **Graz with Styria**
 - e) **Wroclaw with Lower Silesia**



Sustainable Urban Development: Art. 7 ERDF Regulation

Article 7 ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) Regulation:

- “At least **5%** of the ERDF resources allocated at the national level shall be allocated to integrated actions for sustainable urban development [...].”
- „[...] sustainable urban development through strategies that set out integrated actions to tackle the economic, environmental, climate, demographic and social challenges affecting urban areas, while taking into account the need to promote urban-rural linkages.“
- Possibilities for implementation:
 - Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI)
 - Specific priority axis (also „multi-thematic axis“)
 - own Operational Programme (OP)





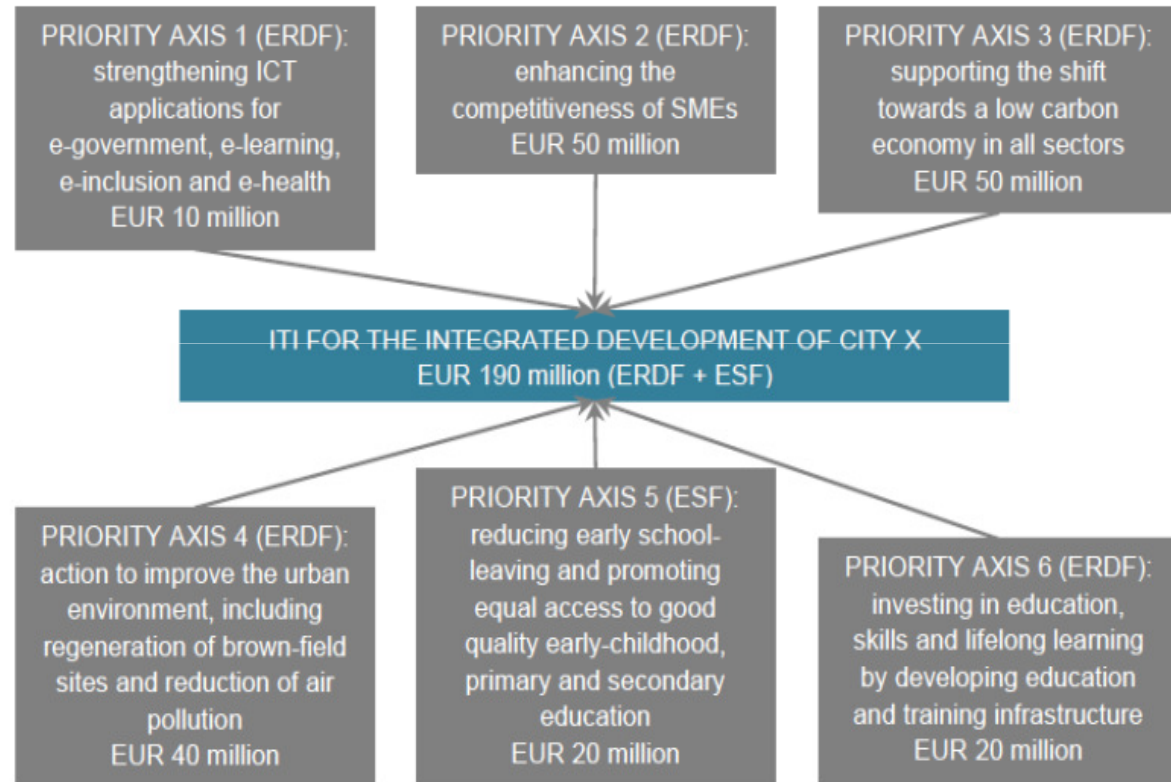
Specific provisions on the treatment of particular territorial features

Article 12 ESF (European Social Fund) Regulation:

1. "The ESF may support community-led local development strategies in urban and rural areas, [...], territorial pacts and local initiatives for employment, including youth employment, education and social inclusion, as well as Integrated territorial investments (ITI) [...]."
2. "As a complement to ERDF interventions [...], the ESF may support sustainable urban development through strategies setting out integrated actions to tackle the economic, environmental and social challenges affecting the urban areas [...]."

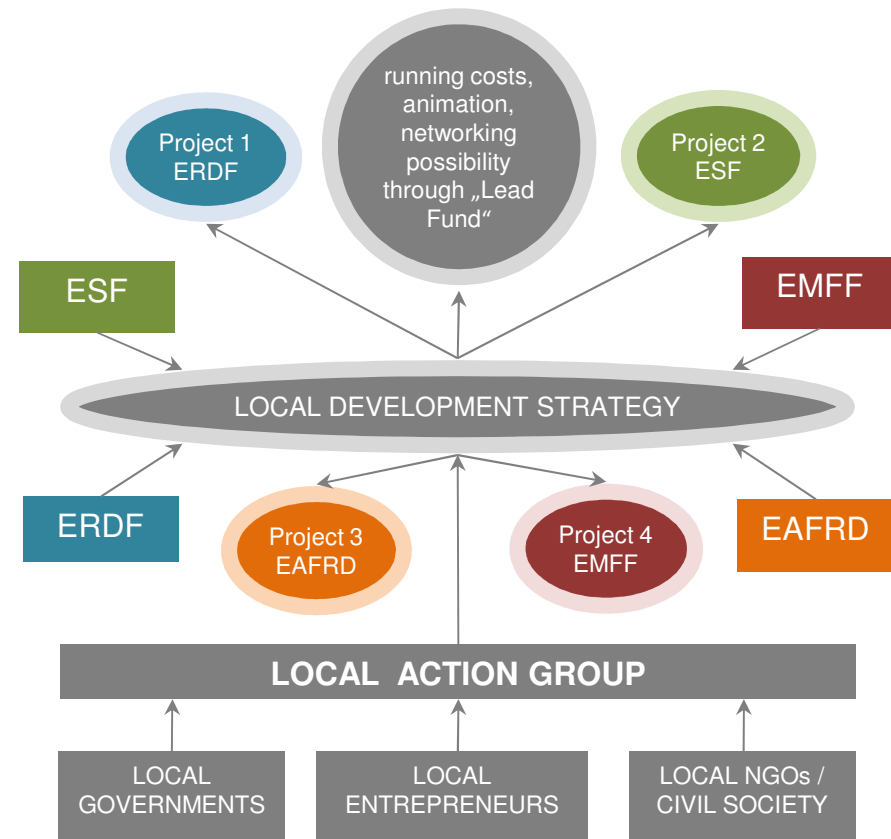
Instruments: ITI – Integrated Territorial Investment

- **Bundling of funding from several priority axes of one or more OPs and funds based on an urban development strategy**
- **Any geographical area with particular territorial features can be subject of an ITI**
- **Top-down**
- **Sub-delegation of management**
- **Useful for bigger cities or bigger functional areas and investments**



Instruments: CLLD – Community-led Local Development

- Based on LEADER approach
- Bottom-up, based on sub-regional and multi-sector strategies
- Smaller functional areas and smaller projects
- The local action group (LAG) determines the content of the local development strategy and the financed operations
- LAG = public (max. 49 %) + private stakeholders





Innovative Actions

Article 8 ERDF Regulation:

- **Fostering experimental and new approaches and solutions in the area of sustainable urban development**
- **Selection of pilot projects through six annual competitive procedures (all over Europe) with **start in 2015**, city / agglomeration with minimum 50.000 inhabitants**
- **Award directly by the European Commission or delegated agency (Ø 2 -5 Mio. € per project)**
- **330 Mio. € (2014 – 2020)**
- **For example: studies and pilot projects to identify or test new solutions which addressed issues that are related to sustainable urban development and are relevant at EU-level**



Results Leipzig / Halle I:

- **Governance of EU funds:**
 - In Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt own OP for each fund, Managing Authorities and intermediate bodies are located in several ministries and institutions
 - Different funding status of the larger Leipzig area
- **Funding Period 2007 – 2013:**
 - Long experience with the management of EU-funded integrated urban development projects, but no projects aimed at urban-rural partnerships so far
- **Funding Period 2014 – 2020:**
 - ITI rarely applied in Germany, CLLD mainly focused on rural areas and the EAFRD (LEADER approach)
 - Instead of ITI most federal states – including Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt – decided to use „multi-thematic axis” in regional OP’s



Results Leipzig / Halle II:

- **Funding Period 2014 – 2020:**
 - Saxony provides multi-thematic axis in the ERDF OP for integrated urban development projects and brownfield revitalisation (except in the larger Leipzig area)
 - Saxony-Anhalt provides multi-thematic axis in the ERDF OP for urban-rural partnerships: “Promotion of integrated urban-rural development”
 - Thematic focus: a) Climate and environment protection b) Decrease of functional deficits in historical cities c) Revitalisation of urban and suburban brownfields
 - Additionally, Saxony-Anhalt provides multi-fund CLLD areas (ERDF/ESF/EAFRD), except in Halle and Magdeburg
- **Results:**
 - Interesting developments in Saxony-Anhalt with regard to the funding of urban-rural partnerships, with regard to the multi-thematic axis and CLLD
 - Joint projects with Saxony meet very complex framework conditions, probably more possibilities provided through Innovative Actions according to Art. 8 of the ERDF Reg.



Results Prague:

- **Governance of EU Funds:**
 - National and regional OP's available. City of Prague has own multi-fund OP „Growth Pole of the Czech Republic“ and the function of the Managing Authority for ESIF
- **Funding Period 2007 – 2013:**
 - No projects for urban-rural partnerships supported by EU funds; Prague and Central Bohemia were part of the OECD survey within the RURBAN Initiative
- **Funding Period 2014 – 2020:**
 - ITI is planned for the Prague OP and parts of Central Bohemia. ITI strategy still in preparation, topics under discussion: mobility, environment (flood prevention) and regional system of education
- **Results:**
 - ITI approach provides instrument for urban-rural partnerships
 - Difficulties appear for joint fund management due to two administrative regions in two different funding categories



Results Turin:

- **Governance of the EU Funds:**
 - Each region has own OP's for ERDF/ESF/EAFRD, strengthening of national OP's
- **Funding Period 2007 – 2013:**
 - Urban dimension covered in particular funding priorities, LEADER approach in the Piedmont region
 - Green Belt – Corona Verde (10 Mio. € ERDF) as regional project for the development of peri-urban landscapes
- **Funding Period 2014 – 2020:**
 - No ITI, CLLD only through EAFRD; but: Introduction of national ERDF OP for 14 Metropolitan Cities, covering core cities and surrounding regions
- **Results:**
 - No particular focus on urban-rural partnerships, but potentials due to national ERDF OP on Metropolitan Cities and previous LEADER experience (CLLD as instrument for sub-urban areas)



Results Graz:

- **Governance of the EU Funds:**
 - 2014 – 2020 only one ERDF OP for entire Austria instead of regional OP's, but multi-level Managing Authorities and intermediate bodies remain
- **Funding Period 2007 – 2013:**
 - Urban-rural partnerships included within a specific funding priority in the ERDF OP: URBAN PLUS programme for urban-suburban development
- **Funding Period 2014 – 2020:**
 - No ITI, CLLD only as pilot initiative in Tyrol
 - Specific priority dedicated to the development of urban / functional urban areas (development of interregional management structures and urban pilot projects)
- **Results:**
 - Valuable experience to use EU funds for urban-rural partnerships
 - Programmatic framework allows direct funding from the ERDF OP for urban-rural partnerships



Results Wrocław:

- **Governance of the EU Funds:**
 - 5 national OP's (3 for the ERDF), 16 multi-fund regional OP's; 5% ERDF ring-fenced for functional urban areas
- **Funding Period 2007 – 2013:**
 - No explicit funding possibilities used to support urban-rural partnerships
- **Funding Period 2014 – 2020:**
 - 3 ITI foreseen in Lower Silesia, thereof one for Wrocław and the conurbation area (indicated funding: approx. 600 Mio. €)
 - Institutionalised partnership, ITI strategy is being prepared; agreement of ITI will be signed by the ITI association and the Managing Authority of the regional OP's
- **Results:**
 - Interesting multi-fund approach with ITI for the urban region, providing the possibilities for a comprehensive range of projects in the functional area



General conclusions

- I. Only few funding possibilities within the 2007 – 2013 funding period**
- II. Significant increase of funding possibilities in the 2014 – 2020 funding period compared to the previous funding period**
- III. Nearly all possible funding approaches can be found in the investigated areas: ITI, CLLD, own funding priority in the national or regional OP, sub-measures etc.**
- IV. Clear difference between new and old member states:**
 - ITI rather seldom in the old member states
 - Comprehensive application of new funding instruments in new member states
- V. Thematic topics mainly comprise: brownfield revitalisation, mobility, protection of natural and cultural heritage, climate protection**

The study clearly shows potential linkages for most of the urban regions to use funding from the EU Structural Funds within the 2014-2020 period!



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Many thanks for your attention.

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