Cohesion Policy Evaluation
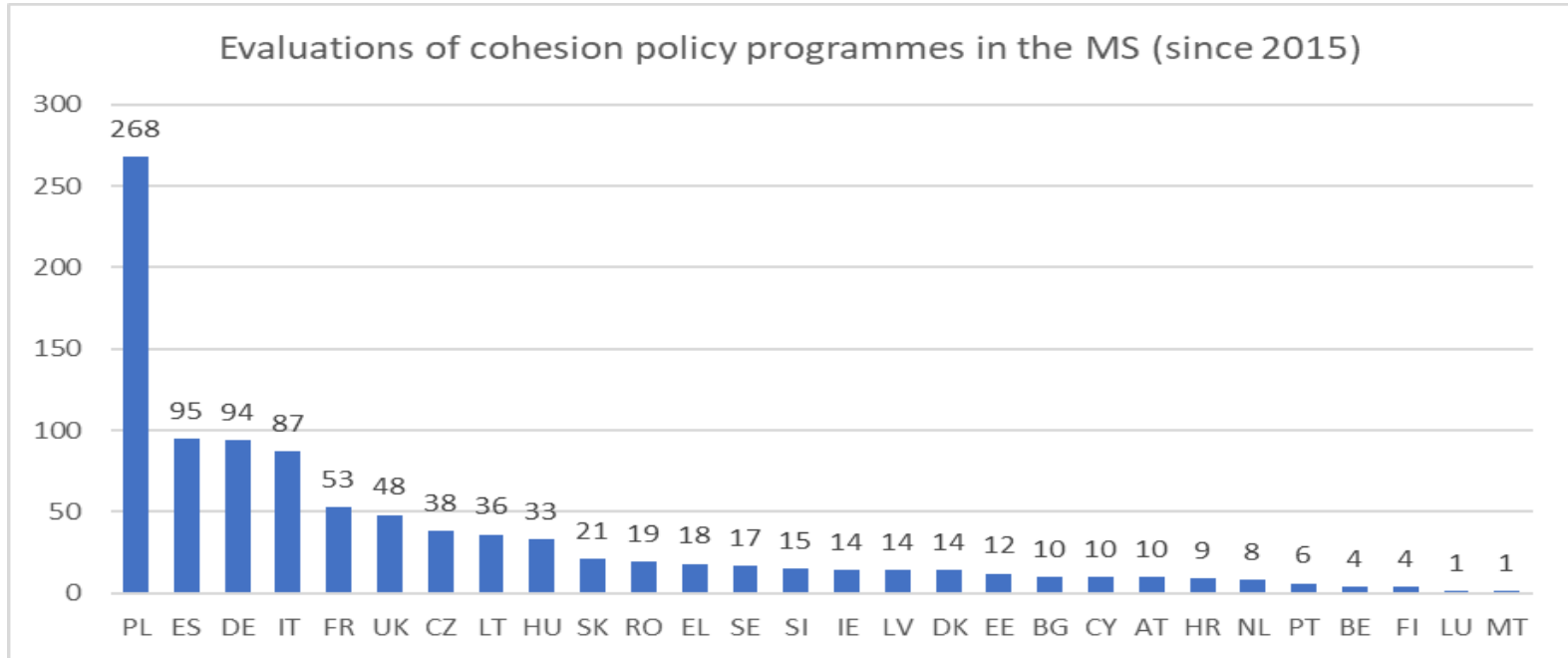
Mihai Panaite, DG REGIO

Bucharest, 19 November 2019

Sustained evaluation work in MS...

Evaluations of cohesion policy programmes in the MS (since 2015)

... and the Commission

Completed:
- Major projects in the transport sector 2000-2013
- Major projects in the environment sector 2000-2013
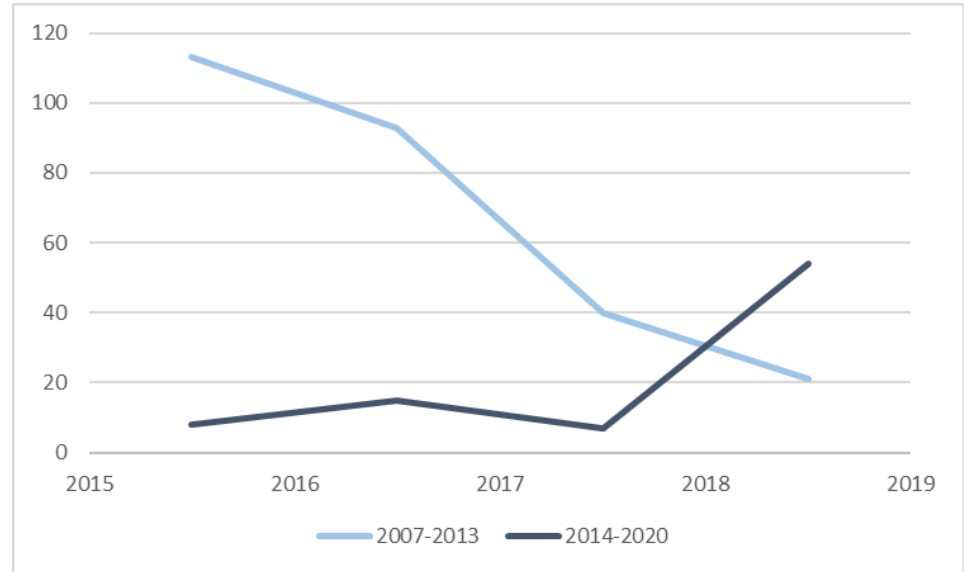- European Solidarity Fund 2002-2016

On-going:
- Jaspers (Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions)
- R&D infrastructures and activities ex post 2007-2013

Upcoming:
- ICT and Broadband ex post 2007-2013
- e-Cohesion

Focus on impact evaluations

	2007-2013			2014-2020		
	Impact	Other	Total	Impact	Other	Total
ERDF/CF	158	40	198	21	212	233
Multi-Fund	52	15	67	10	100	110
ESF/YEI	57	28	85	53	213	266
Total	267	83	350	84	525	609

Evaluation Helpdesk (1)

Review of evaluations conducted in the MS:

- Delays, when compared to evaluation plans, + low share of impact evaluations,

- Rather clear design, but

- ~30% reliable (approach adopted, methods used, data employed…),

- Fail to properly assess the impact on results of other factors, or assume outcomes must relate to the intervention being evaluated,

- Reliance on interviews of recipients of support.

Evaluation Helpdesk (2)

Review of evaluations conducted in the MS:

- Theory-based: theory and transmission channel unclear,

- Counterfactual: no appropriate ctrl. group or weak link to treated group,

- CBA: some costs are ignored,

- Data issues: insufficient evidence because data not available -> other data is used

Upcoming Strategic report 2019, incl. Synthesis of findings of ESIF evaluations:

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/en/policy/how/stages-step-by-step/strategic-report/

Evaluation Helpdesk (3)

Sustained and long-term effort is necessary to improve evaluation quality.

Choice of method, quality of data -> for valid findings.

New programmes: <u>ensure evaluability</u> at the stage of design, by involving evaluation experts in MAs.

Evaluation Helpdesk (4)

- Mix of services for the applying MS (on request):
    1. *Expert reviews,*
    2. *Support on evaluation methodology issues,*
    3. *Provision of bilateral feedback on reviewed evaluations in the MS,*
    4. *Summer school.*
- Service always fitted to the needs, on a case by case basis.
- Evaluation Network Meetings.

Evaluation framework post-2020

- Designed in line with the overall drive for simplification, underpinned by the work of the High-Level Group on Simplification.

- Fine-tuning of the current provisions, to allow for more simplification, in line with the overall approach taken by COM in the legislative proposals of May '18.

Post-2020: what remains unchanged

Member states (art. 39):

- Evaluations during the programming period,

- Functional independence of evaluators,

- MS to guarantee procedures necessary to produce and collect data needed for evaluations,

- Evaluation plans to be submitted to MC within 1 year of programme adoption,

- MCs to examine progress in evaluations, synthesis and follow-up to findings (art. 35).

Commission (art. 40):
- Impact evaluation of Funds (by 2031).

Post-2020: what is new

- MS evaluations to assess programme relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and EU added value,

- Programme impact evaluation by June 2029,

- Commission mid-term evaluation by end 2024,

- Ex-ante evaluation no longer mandatory (possibility exists, where necessary),

- No more reporting on synthesis of evaluations (only MC, no AIR).

A coherent calendar for evaluation work

1 year after the OP adoption: evaluation plans by MS,

2024: mid-term evaluation by COM,

2025: mid-term performance review (MS and COM),

2029: programme impact evaluations by MS,

2031: retrospective evaluations by COM.

These are the milestones; other evaluations will be carried out by COM and the MS.

Final remarks

- Promote an evaluation culture -> evaluation networks are very important!

- Intervention logic and performance orientation,

- Evaluations must be followed up.

Resources: Evaluation Library (Inforegio)

- Archive of evaluations

This library contains selected evaluations carried out by Member States in the 2014-2020 period and evaluations assessing the impact of investments from the 2007-2013 period. For other types of 2007-2013 evaluations or evaluations of interventions from the 2000-2006 period, please visit this link

Keyword	Keyword
Country	...
Method	...
Fund	...
Type	...
Thematic Objective	...
Programming Period	2014-2020

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/evaluations/member-states/

Open Data Platform

European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) - explore our data

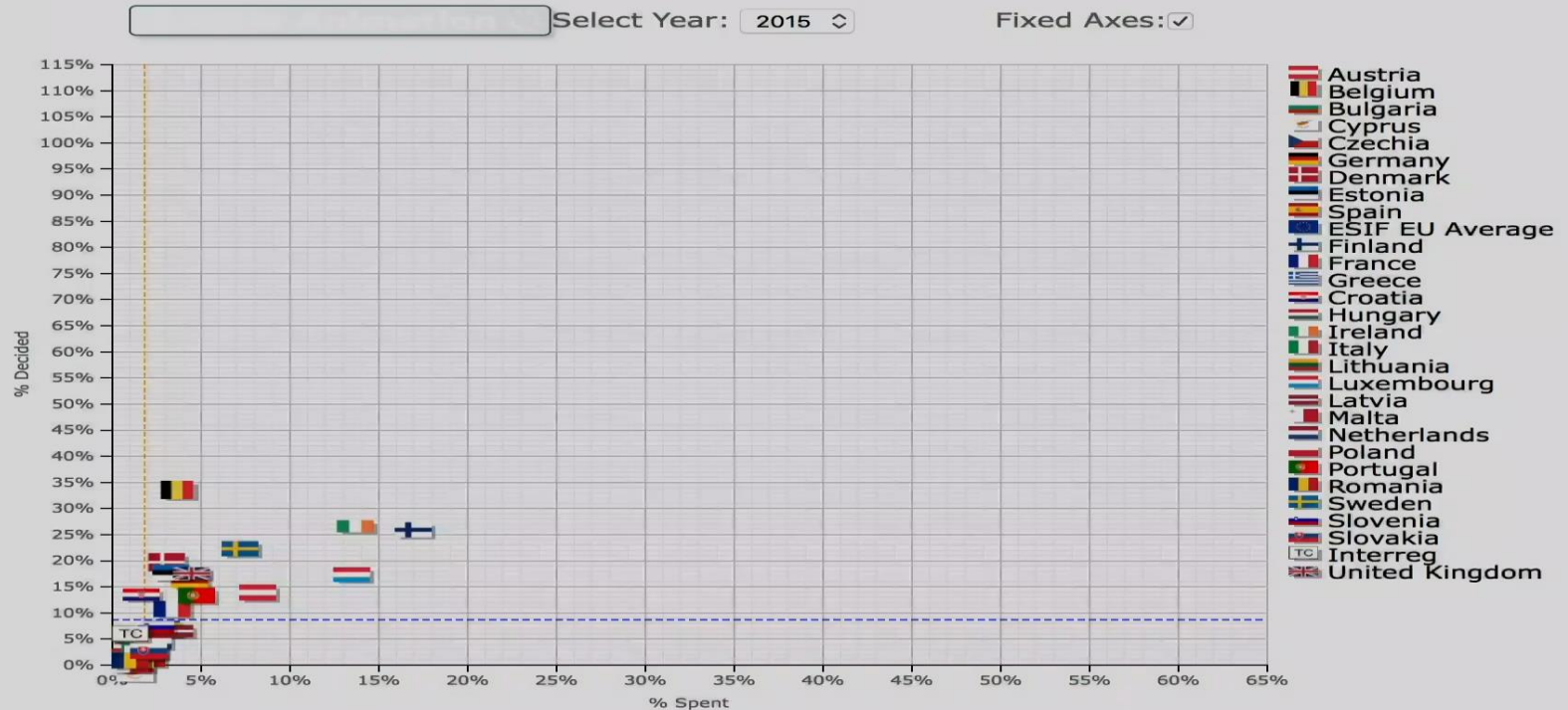| EU LEVEL	THEME	COUNTRY	FUND

✓ **Data collection and dissemination**

✓ **Public data platform for the programming period 2014-2020**

✓ **Four ESI DGs: AGRI, EMPL, MARE, and REGIO**

✓ **Launched in December 2015 – updated, developed and enriched regularly**

https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/

EU overview of implementation by Member State — total cost of selection and spending as % of planned (scatter plot)

Explore and Share this Data ❯   ◐ **Get Chart Embed Code**

Select Year: [2015 ◇]   Fixed Axes: ☑

- The chart axes will dynamically update to fit the data range for that year when "fixed axes" is not selected