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Public consultation on the next MFF: Implementing EU funding with Member States and regions

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The current multiannual financial framework (MFF) – the EU's long-term budget – runs until the end of 2027. In 2025, the Commission will adopt comprehensive proposals for the post-2027 multiannual financial framework and for the next generation of funding programmes. These programmes provide financial support to a wide range of beneficiaries across the EU - including universities, regions, towns, civil society organisations, businesses, farmers, students, scientists and many others.

Following President von der Leyen's Political Guidelines for the 2024-2029 European Commission, the Commission will work together for a simpler, more focused and responsive long-term budget that reflects the European strategic priorities with the ambition to be an 'Investment Commission', while moving towards. The next long-term budget will be simpler in the way it works – with fewer programmes and a plan for each country linking key reforms with investment, and focusing on our joint priorities, including promoting economic, social and territorial cohesion. The multiannual financial framework for the period after 2027 must reflect this.

The Commission's proposals will be designed to make it possible for the EU to deliver on the things that matter most, in areas where it can achieve more than Member States acting alone. This requires a careful assessment both of what has worked well in the past and what could be improved in the future. The next EU long-term budget will draw lessons from the current one – notably in terms of simplicity and flexibility, speed and strategic focus.

To gather evidence to support the preparation of these proposals, the Commission is launching a series of public consultations to gather views from all interested parties on how to make the very most of every euro of the EU budget.

To deliver on these objectives, this consultation covers EU funding implemented with Members States and regions in the following policy areas: cohesion policy, common agricultural policy, fisheries and maritime policies, home affairs and Trans-European Networks. The decision to cluster issues serves to support the preparatory work and does not pre-empt the architecture of future programmes.

This questionnaire consists of three parts. Part 1 collects some information about you, while Part 2 contains questions related to the EU funds. Section 3 contains two closing questions.

It should take about 9 minutes to complete the survey. You can save your replies as a draft and finish them later. Please be concise when providing additional comments on the questions with a free text box. You can upload a document stating your views at the end of the survey.

Part 1

About you

* Language of my contribution

- Bulgarian
- Croatian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- Estonian
- Finnish
- French
- German
- Greek

- Hungarian
- Irish
- Italian
- Latvian
- Lithuanian
- Maltese
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Slovak
- Slovenian
- Spanish
- Swedish

* I am giving my contribution as
  - Academic/research institution
  - Business association
  - Company/business
  - Consumer organisation
  - EU citizen
  - Environmental organisation
  - Non-EU citizen
  - Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
  - (•) Public authority
  - Trade union
  - Other

* First name

* Surname

* Email (this won't be published)

europa@region-frankfurt.de

* Scope

- ○ International
- ○ Local
- ○ National
- ◉ Regional

* Level of governance

- ○ Parliament
- ◉ Authority
- ○ Agency

* Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

European Office of the Metropolitan Region FrankfurtRheinMain on behalf of the Regional Authority FrankfurtRheinMain

* Organisation size

- ○ Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- ○ Small (10 to 49 employees)
- ◉ Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- ○ Large (250 or more)

Transparency register number

Check if your organisation is on the transparency register. It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

* Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

This list does not represent the official position of the European institutions with regard to the legal status or policy of the entities mentioned. It is a harmonisation of often divergent lists and practices.

- ○ Afghanistan
- ○ Åland Islands
- ○ Albania
- ○ Djibouti
- ○ Dominica
- ○ Dominican Republic
- ○ Libya
- ○ Liechtenstein
- ○ Lithuania
- ○ Saint Martin
- ○ Saint Pierre and Miquelon
- ○ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

- Algeria
- American Samoa
- Andorra
- Angola
- Anguilla
- Antarctica
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Aruba
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Belize
- Benin
- Bermuda
- Bhutan
- Bolivia
- Bonaire Saint Eustatius and Saba
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Estonia
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- Falkland Islands
- Faroe Islands
- Fiji
- Finland
- France
- French Guiana
- French Polynesia
- French Southern and Antarctic Lands
- Gabon
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Gibraltar
- Greece
- Greenland
- Grenada
- Guadeloupe
- Guam
- Luxembourg
- Macau
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mali
- Malta
- Marshall Islands
- Martinique
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mayotte
- Mexico
- Micronesia
- Moldova
- Monaco
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Montserrat
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Myanmar/Burma
- Namibia
- Nauru
- Nepal
- Samoa
- San Marino
- São Tomé and Príncipe
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- Sint Maarten
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
- South Korea
- South Sudan
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Suriname
- Svalbard and Jan Mayen
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Syria

- Botswana
- Bouvet Island
- Brazil
- British Indian Ocean Territory
- British Virgin Islands
- Brunei
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Cape Verde
- Cayman Islands
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Chile
- China
- Christmas Island
- Clipperton
- Cocos (Keeling) Islands
- Colombia
- Comoros
- Congo
- Cook Islands
- Guatemala
- Guernsey
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Heard Island and McDonald Islands
- Honduras
- Hong Kong
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Isle of Man
- Israel
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jersey
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Netherlands
- New Caledonia
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Niue
- Norfolk Island
- Northern Mariana Islands
- North Korea
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palau
- Palestine
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Pitcairn Islands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Puerto Rico
- Taiwan
- Tajikistan
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- The Gambia
- Timor-Leste
- Togo
- Tokelau
- Tonga
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Tunisia
- Türkiye
- Turkmenistan
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- Tuvalu
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States
- United States Minor Outlying Islands
- Uruguay
- US Virgin Islands
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu

- Costa Rica
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Croatia
- Cuba
- Curaçao
- Cyprus
- Czechia
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Denmark
- Kiribati
- Kosovo
- Kuwait
- Kyrgyzstan
- Laos
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Qatar
- Réunion
- Romania
- Russia
- Rwanda
- Saint Barthélemy
- Saint Helena Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Vatican City
- Venezuela
- Vietnam
- Wallis and Futuna
- Western Sahara
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. **Fo r the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association, 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published.** Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

* **Contribution publication privacy settings**

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

- **Anonymous**

  Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

- **Public**

  Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

☑ I agree with the personal data protection provisions

Part 2 - Questions related to EU funds implemented with Member States and regions

How important are the following policy challenges to you?

	Very important	Important	Moderately important	Not at all important	Don't know/not applicable
Limited public investment capacities to meet the needs of EU priorities (e.g. green and digital transitions, security, competitiveness)	◉	○	○	○	○
Persisting social, economic, regional and territorial disparities	○	◉	○	○	○
Limited capacity of regions and communities to benefit from the single market and new economic opportunities	○	○	◉	○	○
Demographic challenges	○	◉	○	○	○
Labour and skills shortages, need for upskilling and reskilling, and unpreparedness of education and training systems for the 21st century	○	◉	○	○	○
Decline in labour productivity and competitiveness	○	○	◉	○	○
Lack of progress in addressing poverty and social exclusion	○	○	◉	○	○
Barriers to the access to essential services, health, quality care, housing and social protection	○	○	◉	○	○
Digitalisation of the public administration, including public services and the justice systems	◉	○	○	○	○
Digital transformation in key sectors	◉	○	○	○	○
Lack of connectivity in Member States and regions (e.g. transport, energy and digital)	○	○	◉	○	○

Challenges related to the respect of the rule of law (e.g. independence of the judiciary, right to a fair trial, fight against corruption)	○	○	○	◉	○
Challenges related to the effective protection of EU funds against fraud, corruption and other illegal activity	○	○	○	◉	○
Security threats such as organised crime	○	○	◉	○	○
Challenges related to ensuring a complete and fully functioning Schengen area with the free movement of people	○	○	○	○	◉
Challenges related to migration and asylum management	○	◉	○	○	○
Increasing impacts of climate change and environmental degradation (e.g. natural disasters, loss of biodiversity)	◉	○	○	○	○
Decarbonising the economy	○	○	◉	○	○
Securing an affordable, sustainable and secure energy supply	◉	○	○	○	○
Maximising the potential of the circular economy	○	◉	○	○	○
Securing a stable supply of high-quality food at all times at reasonable prices	○	○	◉	○	○
Economic disparities and crises faced by the agricultural and fishery sectors	○	○	◉	○	○
Struggling cultural and creative sectors, precarity of artists, limited access to culture and preservation of heritage	○	○	○	○	◉
Other (please specify below)	○	○	○	○	○

To what extent do you consider the following factors as obstacles to the EU budget achieving its objectives?

	To a large extent	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Don't know/ not applicable
Too many funds with overlapping objectives	○	○	◉	○	○
Different and often complex fund-specific rules on access to funding and compliance	○	○	◉	○	○
Administrative capacity at national, regional and local level	○	○	◉	○	○
Administrative burden for beneficiaries, regional and national authorities	○	○	◉	○	○
Overly complicated governance and distribution of funds	○	◉	○	○	○
Lack of flexibility to adapt to new and unforeseen developments	○	◉	○	○	○
Lack of consistency and effectiveness to deliver on EU policy priorities	○	○	◉	○	○
Insufficient alignment with national policies	○	◉	○	○	○
Low absorption of funds and insufficient number of high-quality projects	○	◉	○	○	○
Insufficient focus on projects with the highest EU added value (e.g. multi-country projects)	○	◉	○	○	○
Insufficient focus on achieving results	◉	○	○	○	○
Insufficient mobilisation of private financing (e. g. by de-risking private investment)	○	○	◉	○	○
National regulatory environment makes EU funding less effective	○	○	○	◉	○
Fraud, corruption and other illegal activities targeting EU funds	○	◉	○	○	○
Other (please specify below)	○	○	○	○	○

To what extent do you agree that the below objectives are supported by EU policies - for Cohesion Policy?

	To a large extent	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Don't know/not applicable
Contribute to achieving EU objectives, including territorial, social and economic cohesion	◉	○	○	○	○

Support EU public goods (e.g. cross-border / multi-country projects)	◉	○	○	○	○
Address cross-border challenges (e.g. climate change)	◉	○	○	○	○

To what extent do you agree that the below objectives are supported by EU policies - for Common agriculture policy?

	To a large extent	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Don't know/not applicable
Contribute to achieving EU objectives, including a fair standard of living for the farming community) and to making the agricultural sector attractive to new entrants	○	○	◉	○	○
Support EU public goods (e.g. the provision of eco-system services, and cross-border cooperation)	○	○	◉	○	○
Address cross-border challenges (e.g. climate change, food security)	○	○	◉	○	○

To what extent do you agree that the below objectives are supported by EU policies - for Fisheries and maritime policies?

	To a large extent	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Don't know/not applicable
Contribute to achieving EU objectives, including fostering sustainable fisheries, and restoring and conserving aquatic biological resources	○	○	○	○	◉
Support EU public goods (e.g. cross-border cooperation)	○	○	○	○	◉
Address cross-border challenges (e.g. climate change)	○	○	○	○	◉

To what extent do you agree that the below objectives are supported by EU policies - for Home affairs?

	To a large extent	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Don't know/not applicable
Contribute to achieving EU objectives, including efficient management of migration, asylum and external borders	○	○	○	○	◉

Support EU public goods (e.g. cross-border / multi-country projects)	○	○	○	○	◉
Address cross-border challenges (e.g. security threats)	○	○	○	○	◉

To what extent do you agree that the below objectives are supported by EU policies - for Trans-European Networks?

	To a large extent	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Don't know/not applicable
Contribute to achieving EU objectives, including a smooth functioning single market, and territorial, social and economic cohesion	○	◉	○	○	○
Support EU cross-border / multi-country infrastructure projects	○	◉	○	○	○
Address cross-border challenges (e.g. military mobility and defence, climate change)	○	○	○	○	◉

To what extent do you agree that the following options could help the EU budget become more effective and efficient?

	To a large extent	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Don't know/ not applicable
Applying common rules, timelines and eligibility criteria to all relevant EU funds	○	○	○	◉	○
Fewer, clearer and simpler rules	◉	○	○	○	○
Reduce the number of EU funding programmes	○	◉	○	○	○
Simplify the management of EU funding programmes at national and regional level	○	◉	○	○	○
Prioritise projects with high EU added value, such as multi-country projects and projects that contribute to the EU's strategic priorities	○	○	◉	○	○
Introduce more flexibility into resource allocation to react to crises and emerging needs	○	◉	○	○	○
Use funds to promote both reforms and investments	○	○	◉	○	○
Simplify access to funding for beneficiaries	◉	○	○	○	○

Use more EU funds to stimulate private and national investment, including through financial instruments (e.g. loans, guarantees, equity)	○	◉	○	○	○
Place greater focus on achieving results, including via performance-based funding (such as financing not linked to costs)	○	○	○	◉	○
Prevent and combat fraud and corruption better, as well as other illegal activities targeting EU funds	○	○	○	○	◉
Other (please specify below)	○	○	○	○	○

Do you agree that the policies covered by the EU budget should continue to support all types of regions and communities in the future?

Maximum 1 selection(s)

- [x] Yes
- [ ] No

If you selected ‘yes’, please explain why:

500 character(s) maximum

Cohesion policy helps reducing economic, social and territorial disparities among EU regions. Also, better developed metropolitan regions (MR) are facing
transformation challenges (digitalisation, climate change and energy
transition) while having special challenges like housing pressure,
migration, shortage of skilled labor. MR often have to reconcile opposing trends in rural and urban sub-regions. Cohesion Policy makes Europe visible and can counter Euroscepticism.

If you have any concrete suggestions for improvement, please specify:

500 character(s) maximum

If you think that these stakeholders could be involved more effectively, please specify:

500 character(s) maximum

An intensification of the partnership-based programming of OPs funded by the structural funds is needed. This includes collaboration between the Commission and the member state level, the regional level (in Germany the federal states), as well as a genuine partnership with regional stakeholders below the state level, such as the metropolitan regions (MR). MRs are in close exchange with cities, municipalities, counties and other stakeholders, and are well aware of their needs and challenges.

Which of the following aspects do you consider the most important for improving the administrative and institutional capacity of public administrations in Member States?

- [x] Predictability of the programming cycle associated with EU-funded investments
- [ ] Flexibility to address a wide variety of Member States' needs
- [ ] Focus on key EU priorities with more EU added value
- [ ] Helping Member States to identify the areas where technical support would be more impactful
- [ ] Sustainability of capacity over time
- [x] Support a wide range of beneficiaries in public administrations at different levels
- [ ] Support and information about funding opportunities to potential beneficiaries /applicants
- [x] Addressing skills needs of national, regional and local authorities
- [ ] Other (please specify below)
- [ ] Don't know / unable to answer

Part 3 - Closing questions

If you would like to add further information – within the scope of this questionnaire – please feel free to do so here.

2000 character(s) maximum

In accordance with Article 174 TFEU, cohesion policy should aim to promote long-term investments and should not allow structural funds to be reallocated during the current funding period for the short-term management of new crises. This is also necessary due to the resulting need for extensive adjustments to the operational programmes. In order to be able to react to short-term crises, a reserve for unforeseen shocks outside of cohesion policy should be established within the Multiannual Financial Framework, without cutting the cohesion policy funds in the multiannual financial framework. A greater centralisation of funding e.g. via the Recovery and Resilience Facility has led directly to a restriction or exclusion of participation opportunities for metropolitan regions and their municipalities. Future funding instruments of cohesion policy should therefore be managed through shared fund administration.

Please attach any relevant documents to support your replies.
File upload box - 1 MB max and only pdf, txt, doc, docx, odt and rtf files are allowed.

Only files of the type pdf,txt,doc,docx,odt,rtf are allowed

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/Position_Paper_European_Office__of_the_Metropolitan_Region_FrankfurtRheinMain_Cohesion_Policy_2

Contact

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