

**Cohesion Policy:
“No Place
& No People Left Behind”**

- The COR Perspective

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1. Personal Journey Sentiments: The Politics of Cohesion Policy

- ▶ Strange chameleon that has different meanings
- ▶ A mark of the EU
- ▶ Soul of the EU
- ▶ Catch-Up
- ▶ High dependence
- ▶ Pulling the narrative debate
- ▶ Competitiveness
- ▶ European Regional Politics





Foreword

Highlights

CHAPTER 1

CLOSER TO PEOPLE Strengthening democrac

- 1 European democra

CHAPTER 2

STRONGER Sustainable, competit

- 2 Green Deal
- 3 Industrial trans
- 4 Social protecti
- 5 Climate resilie

CHAPTER 3

COHESIVE No place and no pe

- 6 Cohesion ar
- 7 Demograph
- 8 Rural devel

CHAPTER 4

AMBITIOUS Investing in our

- 9 Enlarger
- 10 Investr

Annexes

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2. Specifics for the COR's interest & why Cohesion Policy matters:

Increase of regional inequalities

Growing concentration of economic activities

Leveraging local strengths

Development Vs development trap narratives

Leveraging local strengths

Unleashing potential

Backdrop of a combination of tensions





3. Journeys in Recent Narrative Framings 1/2:

**Innovative
essential
In the EU**

- ▶ Journeys in multi-level governance
- ▶ Place-based approach
- ▶ Cohesion Alliance
- ▶ Need for Resilience strategies
- ▶ Improved governance and administrative
- ▶ Green Deal
- ▶ Climate neutral Europe 2050
- ▶ Triple transitions
- ▶ Emerging green economy
- ▶ Technological advancements
- ▶ High Level Group

The future of European competitiveness

Part A | A competitiveness strategy for Europe

SEPTEMBER 2024



Journeys in Recent Narrative Framings 2/2:

- ▶ Draghi report
- ▶ Concern over too many priorities
- ▶ ‘Do no harm to cohesion’
- ▶ COR 2024 Opinion
- ▶ Calls for decentralised cohesion policy
- ▶ Future European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) Action Plan

4. Details for Budgetary Aspects 1/2:

- ▶ Post-27 cohesion policy
- ▶ Cross-border cooperation
- ▶ Disillusioned
- ▶ Own resources
- ▶ Harmonisation of rules
- ▶ Funding architecture needs to be consistent
- ▶ Fragmentation of funding instruments



Details for Budgetary Aspects, continued 2/2:

- ▶ Worry over new EU sectoral funds
- ▶ Need for streamlined approaches
- ▶ Prospective enlargement
- ▶ Principle of additionality





5. Delivery Mechanism and Multilevel Governance:

- ▶ Additional measures are needed to reduce the complexity
- ▶ Local knowledge
- ▶ Subsidiarity in cohesion policy
- ▶ Member States' different institutional settings
- ▶ Ensure greater decentralisation
- ▶ Adoption of national plans
- ▶ Tailor-made, integrated instruments



6. European Economic Governance and Reforms 1/2:

- ▶ Expanding the existing focus of country reports
- ▶ European Semester operates at a national level
- ▶ Structural reforms are not implemented at the level of the authorities implementing cohesion policy

Programming and Territorial Perspective 2/2:

- ▶ Lengthy budgetary, legislative and programming negotiations as well as regulatory complexity
- ▶ Invites the Commission to outline a viable plan
- ▶ Not a crisis mitigation instrument
- ▶ Further simplification
- ▶ Scope of the Just Transition Fund 2021-2027



Programming and Territorial Perspective 3/3:

- ▶ European Territorial Cooperation (ETC)
- ▶ Smart specialisation strategies
- ▶ Outermost regions
- ▶ Targeted financial assistance
- ▶ Strong external border regions
- ▶ Specific challenges inherent in outermost regions

