

Expenditure on structural/cohesion funds

Dimension - Social Developments

Associated Key Factor:

Social policy and cohesion standards

Data Source:

European Commission

DG Regional Policy

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/regional_policy/index_en.htm

europa.eu.int/comm/index_en.htm

General Availability:

Reporting unit: Regional policy and funds

Reporting level: Country / region

Reporting period: annually

Data available for 1991

The indicator:

Expenditure on structural / cohesion funds, the two main instruments of EU regional policy.

Description

The European Union's regional policy is based on financial solidarity to the less prosperous regions and social gaps. There are mainly two funds: structural funds which finance community structural aid and the cohesion fund which finances poorer community countries. The total aid budget for the period 2000-2006 for these funds is €213 billion. Of this € 195 billion is for structural funds and € 18 billion is spent on cohesion funds. A part of both structural and especially cohesion funds is spent on transport infrastructure or environmental projects.

How is it measured?

Structural funds and cohesion funds form part of the regional policy of the European union.

The structural funds are funds for special policy areas: a. 70% of the funding goes to the regions whose development is lagging behind, i.e. Objective 1 region; b. 11.5% of the funding assists economic and a social conversion in areas experiencing structural difficulties, i.e. Objective 2 region; c. 12.3% of the funding promotes modernisation of training systems & creation of employment, i.e. objective 3; d. four community initiatives that spend 5.3 % of the funding for structural funds.

Cohesion funds provide direct finance for specific projects related to environmental and transport infrastructure in the cohesion countries - Spain, Greece, Ireland & Portugal. The ISPA provides assistance along the same lines to the 10 CEEC which have applied for Union membership.

What are the disadvantages of the Indicator?

Regular reports of the European Union provide ample information on how funds are allocated and used but often lack comparative information for specific policy analyses.

What is the policy relevance of the indicator?

Taps on goals and scope of regional policy.

The Indicator is relevant for the following pathways of the FORESIGHT FOR TRANSPORT exercise:

	Transport Impact	External Determining Variable	Intermediate Variable	Contextual Information
A reorientation of European transport policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decentralization and effects on regional passenger transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increase of trade and infrastructure needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>