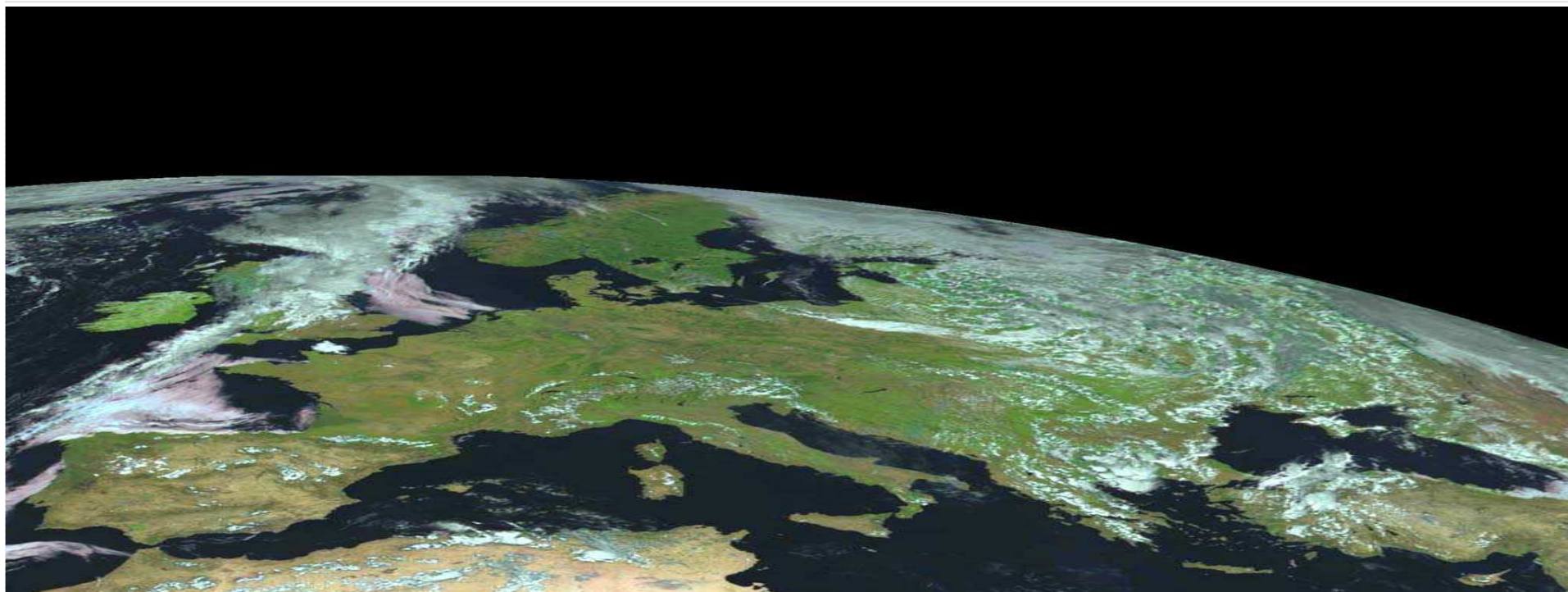


Datar



CoesioNet –30/05/2011



COHESION POLICY POST 2013 Thematic concentration and Integrated approach

Summary

- Thematic concentration : what is a theme?**
- The present system**
- The new architecture proposed by the Commission**
- Some problems about integrated approaches**
- Tracks for research**

Thematic concentration?

- ❑ **Nobody can be against thematic concentration**
 - **to avoid spreading out**
 - **to be more efficient**
 - **to get Cohesion policy better understood**

- ❑ **The question is: what is exactly a theme?**

The present architecture of the programs

- General objectives : Lisbon strategy and Göteborg strategy
 - 5 thematic priorities in the national strategic reference framework (for ERDF) :
 - Innovation and knowledge economy
 - ITC
 - Support for SMEs
 - Environment, risks and energy
 - Alternative types of transport
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Standard plan for OPs the case of Aquitaine

- ❑ Axe 1 : knowledge economy
- ❑ Axe 2 : ITC
- ❑ Axe 3 : environment and energy
- ❑ Axe 4 : territorial development
- ❑ Axe 5 : technical assistance

It looks like NRSF, but not completely,
and they added a territorial approach

How to classify projects in the national architecture (through PRESAGE)

- Innovation and knowledge economy : 29%
- ITC: 7%
- Support for SMEs: 19%
- Environment, risks and energy: 18%
- Alternative types of transport: 13%
- Cannot be categorized : 14%

Finally, inside this last category, 12% are linked to territorial approaches, and only 2% cannot really be classified.

The new architecture proposed by the Commission

- ❑ 4 general objectives : smart growth, sustainable g, inclusive g, and capacity building
 - ❑ Definition of a menu of thematic priorities at the european level, linked to EU 2020
 - ❑ National orientations in a « national partnership contract »
 - ❑ Choice of a limited number of priorities made by each OP, from the European menu
 - ❑ Each priority is linked to specific tools : conditionnalités, incentives, indicators, performance measurement...
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Advantages

- ❑ Unified structure of the OPs
 - ❑ Easier managing at European and national levels
 - ❑ More visible results at all levels
 - ❑ Possibility of comparisons as regards performance, results, cost-effectiveness
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Drawbacks

- ❑ Less freedom for local actors, less ownership,
 - ❑ Difficulty to design specific territorial or regional strategies
 - ❑ No specific themes directly linked to cohesion objectives, overall territorial cohesion
 - ❑ Important risk to sectorialize the policy and programs, at all levels (and to separate still more ESF and ERDF)
 - ❑ Depreciation of the most innovative, intersectoral and territorial projects, that cannot be assessed with sectorial indicators
 - ❑ No place for place-based strategies (the most value-added...)
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Some problems

- ❑ Relation between thematic priorities and objectives :
ex : « promoting sustainable transport » can be linked to sustainable development (saving energy), also to competitive growth (to connect a competitiveness cluster for instance), or to inclusive growth (to connect a poor suburb...)
- ❑ Relation between projects and thematic priorities (true sustainable projects are often pluridimensional)
- ❑ No link between thematic priorities, projects and categories of expenditure

So we cannot establish any tree of objectives, and assessment will be difficult (may be more than now...)

Many projects cannot be correctly assessed with the indicators of a precise thematic priority, and if so, the more original projects will be very badly marked

So...

- ❑ If the national managing system is only based on thematic objectives and priorities, there is a big risk to be lead:
 1. to transform cohesion policy into a juxtaposition of sectorial approaches, with targets defined from the european and national levels,
 2. to design projects mainly to satisfy these targets
 - ❑ Cohesion policy might loose its end, and discourage the best local integrated projects
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What can we do? some ways for research...

- design and integrate specific objectives and indicators in the European framework, in order to measure performance in the field of cohesion
 - Creating a new job must not be valued identically if this job is located in a difficult urban suburb or inside a competitive cluster
 - Assessment of a railway trail must be linked to type of population transported

Is there a possibility of balancing indicators to take into account cohesion objectives?

Is there a way to measure how C. Policy addresses bottlenecks of territorial development?

Can we define territorial targets (for rural lagging territories, for big cities, for industrial regions in mutation?)

How to manage territorial approaches?

- The first idea is to define a sort of « last additional priority », for projects linked to territorial or intersectorial approaches that cannot be classified in thematic approaches, with a maximum proportion of the budget...(like now)
 - A better idea is to say that these specific projects are in a first class category, made of exemplary and sustainable projects, and presented as such
 - But we have to be strict about the necessary qualities to be classified in this group, in terms of design, governance, geographic approach...
 - These projects (« specific cohesion projects »), could be partly disconnected from thematic objectives, to let them adapt to territorial specificities; they could be assessed with specific cohesion indicators
 - There shouldn't be any financial limit, as these projects are the highest level of cohesion policy...
 - But there could be on the contrary a minimum target for these approaches...
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Example : integrated urban projects

- ❑ The general objective is mainly cohesive growth
 - ❑ Specific indicators : reduction of differences of income, level of public services present locally, level of education, level of security or violences...
 - ❑ Possible advantages: possibility of plurifunds programs, global delegations, specific monitoring, specific technical assistance, no financial limit...
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Another way : coming back to a true regional strategic programming

- ❑ Freedom for strategic approaches at OP level
 - ❑ Some freedom for defining thematic priorities (combination of european thematic priorities, territorial approaches : place-based, interregional, crossborder, transnational...)
 - ❑ More importance to evaluation for managing authorities
 - ❑ Follow-up of categories of expenditure at european and national level (with a better definition of categories)
 - ❑ More strategic orientations at the national level (for instance conditionnalities like presenting SRI, regional climate-energy schemes, broad-band planning..., maybe one or two obligatory themes with a minimum proportion of funds), definition of specific OPs for pluriregional approaches...
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The agenda

- ❑ We have just a few weeks to try and invent a specific place for integrated and territorial approaches
 - ❑ And a few months to better the propositions of the Commission, if necessary
 - ❑ About one year to build the national architecture
 - ❑ And one more year to build and negotiate the OPs
 - ❑ There is no time to loose!...
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