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## Editorial

*Mattia Crosetto*

Dear readers,

Regions in Brussels have started to discuss about money.

Actually, €50 billion Euros a year are at stake in the forthcoming reform of EU regional policy. To make sure that the requests of EU regions are taken on board at an early stage, the Committee of the Regions has presented its outline for the future of EU cohesion policy after 2013. Following a plenary debate with Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for Regional Policy, local and regional politicians adopted an outlook opinion drafted by Michael Schneider, State Secretary of the German Land of Saxony-Anhalt and CoR member.

The opinion urges EU partners and national governments to retain an ambitious cohesion policy as a "core element" of the European integration model.

The exchange of views at the plenary session of the Committee was quite intense and surely interesting.

Addressing the Committee of the Regions plenary session for the first time, EU Commissioner Johannes Hahn, said: "We are united by a common interest, strengthening the regional and local level. If we want to make Europe visible, we can do this best through a strong regional policy. What we need is a good balance between focusing on selected core priorities and maximum flexibility for tailor-made implementation of these priorities in the regions".

Answering him, Michel Delebarre, Mayor of Dunkirk and Chairman of the CoR's Commission for territorial cohesion, emphasised: "Commissioner, you have a struggle ahead of you in the College of Commissioners, where some of your colleagues are not necessarily allies of cohesion policy. It is up to you to raise awareness of the territorial effects that other EU policies have. Cohesion policy can not be expected to repair the damage done by other EU policies."

Now, the debate will continue at EC and Parliament. We will follow it for you, reporting on these pages.

Sincerely,

Mattia Crosetto  
The Head of Office  
Zlin Region in Brussels

## Commission assesses cohesion policy's achievements: around 1.4 million jobs created in Europe in 2000-2006

**The investment of €123 billion through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) between 2000 and 2006 has had a clear impact in the regions. An estimated 1.4 million jobs were created during this period, 2 000 km of motorways were built and 14 million people drink better water thanks to EU supported projects.**

Results were presented on a conference in Brussels, where Mr. Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for Regional Policy meet representatives from Member States, regions, the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions and the European Court of Auditors. Mr. Hahn commented on these results: *"These figures show how important the European cohesion policy is. With our investments we do not only make the European Union visible to our citizens in the regions but we also deliver tangible results to the direct benefit of our economy."*

A report shows how cohesion policy successfully reduced disparities between Member States and regions and how it delivered not only economic development, but also environmental and social development. Key findings include:

- Member States report the creation of 710 000 jobs in the EU's least developed regions (the so-called "Objective 1 regions") and 730 000 in the more developed regions ("Objective 2") at the end of 2006.
- Programmes in Objective 1 regions increased both the long term productive potential of the economies and the level of GDP. The cumulative effect of cohesion policy on GDP from 2000 to 2009 in these regions is estimated to be +0.5% in EU15 and +3.7% in the EU10.
- A macro-economic simulation suggests that the entire EU -not just the major beneficiaries- was better off with cohesion policy than without, notably because of increased trade effects.

### **In the field of enterprise and innovation support:**

- Small and medium enterprises were the main focus of the ERDF support to business, receiving 83% (€22.9 billion) of such funding.
- Nearly 38 000 research and development projects received support with the creation of over 13 000 new long term research jobs;

### **In the field of transport:**

- Cohesion policy has improved connectivity throughout Europe. It has supported the building of 2 000 km of motorways (24% of all motorway development in the period) and 4 000 km of rail. For instance, it contributed to a reduction of 20% in travel time on rail corridors in the Czech Republic.
- 100.000 km of roads were built or improved.
- The modernization of 31 airports and 45 sea ports.
- Cohesion policy also contributed to improve intermodal links, establishing good connections between ports, airports, road network and rail network.

### **In the field of environment:**

- Cohesion policy has helped lagging regions to raise standards to comply with the EU environmental legislation with €25.5 billion spent on environment-related investment in 2000-2006.
- 14 million additional people were served by water supply projects.
- 20 million additional people were served by waste water projects, which represents half of the total increase throughout Europe in the period;

The Commission's report formulates policy recommendations for 2007-13 and beyond. Cohesion policy should be more oriented on performance, with greater concentration of expenditure in particular intervention areas and a greater focus on results from planning and negotiating the programmes right through to their closure.

The Commission's synthesis report and all thematic evaluations are available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/evaluation/expost\\_reaction\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/evaluation/expost_reaction_en.htm)

Panorama magazine, "Evaluating Regional Policy – insights and results":

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/panorama/pdf/mag33/mag33\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/panorama/pdf/mag33/mag33_en.pdf)

Consult stories of projects: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/projects/stories/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/projects/stories/index_en.cfm)

## RegioStars – The Awards for Regional Innovative Projects



The RegioStars Awards, as part of the Regions for Economic Change initiative, are targeted at the identification, dissemination and communication of good, innovative practices, which could be attractive and inspiring to other regions, funded through the EU's cohesion policy.

The communication states that "integral to the communication policy of Regions for Economic Change will be the creation of annual innovation awards for best projects in the areas of selected themes linked to economic modernisation. These awards will improve information about good practice, stimulate the exchange of experience and provide visibility for progressive-thinking".

**The deadline for the submission of projects is 16 July 2010.**

For the 2011 Awards, we are giving prominence to the following themes:

### I. Economic competitiveness theme

- 1) Networking and cluster initiatives supporting regional growth and SMEs access to global markets
- 2) Anticipating economic change

### II. Low carbon economy theme

- 3) Promoting sustainable energy in cities ("CityStar" category)
- 4) Integrated, clean urban transport projects ("CityStar" category)

### III. Information and communication theme

- 5) Promotional photo of a co-funded project

Further information on how to apply, including the eligibility and awards criteria, can be found on: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/regiostars\\_11\\_en.cfm?nmenu=4](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/regiostars_11_en.cfm?nmenu=4)

## Survey - "Sustainable energy policies by EU regions and cities: Good practices and challenges"

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions



The **Committee of the Regions (CoR)**, with the support of the **Covenant of Mayors**, is launching a survey entitled "**Sustainable energy policies by EU regions and cities: Good practices and challenges**", asking EU regions and cities to outline their policy on sustainable energy

practices and related political challenges.

The survey will compile examples of good practice from EU regions and cities and will seek to improve understanding of the policy options being implemented, the challenges facing local and regional authorities and the main areas of success.

The results will contribute to the CoR's political message to the special session of the European Council devoted to energy policy in early 2011, thereby helping to define future EU action in this area.

**You can contribute, by 30 June 2010, by filling in the online questionnaire available at:**

<http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/news/Pages/SustainableEnergySurvey.aspx>

For more information visit <http://www.cor.europa.eu/> or contact [forum@cor.europa.eu](mailto:forum@cor.europa.eu)

## Joint Consultation on "The review of the EGTC Regulation"



The Committee of the Regions has launched a Europe-wide consultation on EU rules for cross-border cooperation. Organised jointly with the European Commission, the EU Council presidency "trio" and the Interact Programme, the consultation formally kicked off with a conference in Cáceres, Spain, last 3 May and will remain open for contributions until 20 July. Its results will feed into the review of the relevant EU legislation, which is scheduled for early 2011.

Since 2006 the European Union has made available to local and regional authorities a purpose-built tool for cross-border cooperation: The so-called 'European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation', or EGTC. The forthcoming report on the implementation of the EGTC regulation and proposals for its revision presents a window of opportunity to improve the concept even further in view of local experiences.

The consultation questionnaire is targeted at EU member states, EGTCs already set up or under preparation, local and regional authorities and other stakeholders. It focuses mainly on the good practices, lessons learned so far and the legal questions that the review should address.

The results will be presented in Brussels during the OPEN DAYS in October, and will feed into the Committee of the Regions' own-initiative opinion on the review of the EGTC regulation. Prepared by [Alberto Núñez Feijóo](#) (ES/EPP), President of the Autonomous Community of Galicia, this opinion is scheduled for adoption by the plenary of the Committee of the Regions in early 2011.

**Contributions can be sent to [egtc@cor.europa.eu](mailto:egtc@cor.europa.eu) by 20 July.**

## Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia receive extra money from the EU

The Czech Republic is going to receive an extra cheque by the European Union up to € 237 million. In the same time, Poland will receive € 633 million and Slovakia € 138 million for a total of around €1 billion in additional Structural funds.

This amount is the result of a calculation taking into account the "underspending" (amounts that were foreseen but not spent) compared to the ceilings for cohesion policy over the years 2007-2010. Each country will receive an amount proportional to its initial allocation.

The top-up is a direct consequence of stronger economic growth than forecast in these countries. The Interinstitutional Agreement on the 2007-2013 financial framework between Parliament, Council and Commission foresaw automatic adjustments for countries whose GDP had varied by more than 5% cumulatively over 2007-2009 compared to the forecasts when drawing up the framework. The economic growth of Poland over that period was 8% higher than forecast, whereas Slovakia's and the Czech Republic's were respectively 10.8% and 7.5% higher than expected.

Commenting on this decision, Financial Programming and Budget Commissioner Janusz Lewandowski said: *"Congratulations to the countries concerned for having managed to beat so convincingly growth forecasts made in 2005, despite the difficult environment! The funds will help them continue to modernise their economies and prepare for the future."*

Johannes Hahn, Commissioner in charge of Regional Policy added: *"The higher than expected growth rate for Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia is certainly partly due to the allocation of structural and cohesion funds to these three Member States. This shows clearly the contribution of EU cohesion policy to economic growth in the beneficiary countries. The extra funding these countries will get over the next 3 years will, I am convinced, be used in the same spirit and with the same efficiency"*.

This extra-budget will be administered by the competent national authorities upon agreement with the European Commission.

## Open Days 2010 - Meeting for the presentation of the program



On the 23rd of April 2010, the Zlin Region in Brussels attended the meeting held by the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions for the organisation of the Open Days 2010. The Zlin Region in Brussels is the Leader of the partnership "Baltic Adriatic Corridor Regions" selected for the participation to the Open Days 2010. Because of this role, the Office was invited to the organisers' meeting occurred at DG Regio of the European Commission.

Main issues treated included the presentation of the indicative program for the week from 4th to 7th of October 2010, the deadlines for incoming months and the procedures for the registration of participants. The program proposed includes 131 events, out of which 39 organised by the regional partnerships, 42 by the European Commission, 38 by the Committee of the Regions and 14 by European Universities. The 8th edition of the Open Days is thus candidate to repeat the huge success of last years. The Office has collected all useful information and briefed partners about.

## Open Days 2010 - Meeting with partner Regions

On the 23rd of April 2010, the Zlin Region in Brussels briefed partner Regions of the Baltic Adriatic Corridor team about the results of the meeting with European Commission and the Committee of the Regions. The Office of the Pomorskie Region in Brussels hosted the meeting proposed by the Representative Office of the Zlin Region in Brussels for the presentation of the main results of the last organisational meeting for the Open Days 2010. On the occasion, the Zlin Region in Brussels resumed the main points treated in the morning session with EC and Committee of the Regions. Partners also worked on a first draft of the agenda for the events that they will jointly organize for the 6th of October 2010.

Now, the team is at work on the documentation that has to be delivered to the Committee of the Regions for the definition of the official program of the week from 4th to 7th of October 2010. The next meeting with partners will occur at the beginning of June 2010.

## EU strategy for the Danube Region

On the 27th of April 2010, the Representative Office of the Zlin Region in Brussels attended the seminar devoted to the outcomes of the Vienna conference of 19-21 April. Organized at the European Parliament by the Permanent Representations of Austria and the Slovak Republic to the EU, the seminar included interventions by the Ambassadors of the two countries, as well as of the Austrian State Secretary, Mr. Acs. The agenda of the event scheduled an open debate about the various dimensions of the strategy, among which transport, energy and environmental issues.

It was also enrich by the film screening of "A journey through the Danube Region: territorial cooperation shaping our joint future".

On the occasion of the seminar at EP, together with the colleague of the Silesia Office, Mrs. Magdalena Chawula, Mr. Mattia Crosetto met the Member of the Parliament, Mr. Olbrycht.

The meeting was prepared to invite Mr. Olbrycht as moderator to the Open Days' event under preparation by the team guided by the Zlin Region in Brussels.

After the discussion, Mr. Olbrycht accepted the invitation with great interest.

# Calls for proposals

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**Media Program**

Support for the Implementation of Pilot Projects

Deadline: **14. 06. 2010**<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:073:0031:0032:EN:PDF>

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**Civil Society**

Civil Protection – Exercises, Union Civil Protection Mechanism

Deadline: **30. 04. 2010**<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:060:0014:0014:EN:PDF>

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**Civil Society**

Multiannual Program for the Protection of Children using Internet

Deadline: **27. 05. 2010**<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:048:0007:0012:EN:PDF>

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**Energy**

Intelligent Energy for Europe Program – Call 2010

Deadline: **24. 06. 2010**<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:078:0003:0003:EN:PDF>

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**Education**

LifeLong Learning Program – Support to testing of ECVET systems

Deadline: **16. 07. 2010**<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:085:0014:0016:EN:PDF>

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**Education**

Erasmus – University Charter 2011

Deadline: 30. 06. 2010

<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:095:0007:0008:EN:PDF>

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**Environment**

LIFE+ - Call 2010

Deadline: 01. 09. 2010

<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:114:0014:0017:EN:PDF>

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**Research**

European Metrology Research Program – Researchers Grants

Deadline: **07. 05. 2010**<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:087:0016:0016:EN:PDF>

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**Innovation**ICT section of the Competitiveness and Innovation Program  
Information and Communication TechnologiesDeadline: **01. 06. 2010**[http://ec.europa.eu/ict\\_psp](http://ec.europa.eu/ict_psp)



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## CALENDAR

### MAY

#### 8. 5. 2010

Inter-institutional Open Doors  
Day 2010  
Committee of the Regions  
EU Institutions  
Brussels, Belgium

#### 17-20. 5. 2010

European Parliament  
Plenary Session  
Strasbourg, France

#### 20-21. 5. 2010

Regions for economic change  
"Building Sustainable Growth"  
European Commission  
Brussels, Belgium

#### 25-26. 5. 2010

Brussels Economic Forum  
Debate on EU economic policy  
European Commission  
Brussels, Belgium

## Vacancies in Europe

### European Central Bank

- **Student research assistance traineeship**

Vacancy notice: ECB/TR/026/10

Stagiaires

Place of work: Frankfurt (Germany)

Deadline: 15. 05. 2010

Info: <http://www.ecb.int>

### European Central Bank

- **Trainers for Internal Auditing**

Vacancy notice: ECB/TR/029/10

Stagiaires

Place of work: Frankfurt (Germany)

Deadline: 25. 05. 2010

Info: <http://www.ecb.int>

### European Investment Bank

- **Communication specialist**

Vacancy notice: ECB/008/10/I

Temporary agents

Place of work: Frankfurt (Germany)

Deadline: 30. 05. 2010

Info: <http://www.ecb.int>



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Form closed:  
31. 03. 2010

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