



Federal Institute for
Research on Building,
Urban Affairs and
Spatial Development

within the Federal Office for
Building and Regional Planning



BBSR-Online-Publikation, Nr. 15/2015

New Instruments for Financing Sustainable Regional and Urban Development

CLLD and ITI in Practice as a Contribution towards the
Implementation of the Territorial Agenda 2020

Imprint

Published by

Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR)
within the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR), Bonn

Project management (principal)

André Müller, BBSR

Edited by

DSN - Connecting Knowledge, Kiel
Ralf Duckert, Daniel Klose, Ines Kröger

Copying

All rights reserved

Quotation

Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR)
within the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) (ed.): New Instruments for
Financing Sustainable Regional and Urban Development. CLLD and ITI in Practice as a
Contribution towards the Implementation of the Territorial Agenda 2020.
BBSR-Online-Publikation 15/2015, Bonn, November 2015.

The contents of this report reflect the views of the author and do not necessarily represent the
views of the publisher.

ISSN 1868-0097

© BBSR November 2015



Dear Readers,

19.2 billion euros will flow from Brussels to Germany during the current EU Structural Funding period until 2020, at least 5 % is being available for sustainable urban and regional development. In addition to traditionally funded projects promoting economy and employment, cities and regions may achieve supplementary funds for projects by using new financial instruments. Two of these new instruments are Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) and Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI), widely unknown in Germany. They allow municipalities and regions to combine various funds of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds). The authors of this documentation analysed the application of these instruments on the basis of ten case studies in Germany and the European Union.

Interviews with local partners illustrate the grand added value of these types of financing for sustainable urban and regional development. The examples may incentivize and support decision-makers to use the instruments more frequently in the future EU Structural Funding period starting in 2020.

I wish you a happy reading.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "H. Herrmann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Director and Professor Harald Herrmann

Content

List of figures and tables	2
List of abbreviations	3
1 Introduction	6
2 Subject Background	7
2.1 Territoriale Agenda 2020 (TA 2020).....	7
2.2 Community-Led Local Development (CLLD)	8
2.3 Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI).....	8
3 Summarised Results of the Feasibility Study	10
3.1 CLLD in the German Federal States.....	11
3.2 CLLD in the EU Member States.....	12
3.3 Motivations for the Implementation of CLLD	14
3.4 Subject Focus of CLLD	15
3.5 ITI in the German Federal States.....	15
3.6 ITI in the EU Member States.....	16
3.7 Motivations for the Implementation of ITI	18
4 Case studies	20
4.1 CLLD in Saxony-Anhalt GERMANY	21
4.2 CLLD in Fishing and Coastal Areas SPAIN	23
4.3 CLLD in Cities ENGLAND.....	25
4.4 CLLD in Scheveningen, The Hague NETHERLANDS	27
4.5 Cross-border CLLD in Italy and Austria	29
4.6 ITI “West Coast: Competence Region for Tourism and Energy“, Schleswig-Holstein GERMANY	31
4.7 ITI in the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve ROMANIA.....	33
4.8 ITI in Metropolitan Regions and Conurbations CZECH REPUBLIC	35
4.9 ITI in Flanders BELGIUM.....	37
4.10 ITI in Large Cities FINLAND	39
5 Bibliography	41

List of figures and tables

Figure 1:	ESIF utilised to implement CLLD in the EU member states	13
Figure 2:	Number of ESIFs utilised per EU member state	13
Figure 3:	Case studies on implementing CLLD and ITI in the EU Member States.....	20
Table 1:	Implementation of the CLLD approach in the German federal states	11
Table 2:	Overview of ITI funding utilised by EU member states.....	17

List of abbreviations

AT	Austria
BB	Brandenburg
BBR	Bundesamt für Bauwesen und Raumordnung (Engl: Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning)
BBSR	Bundesinstitut für Bau-, Stadt- und Raumforschung (Engl: Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development)
BE	Belgium
BG	Bulgaria
BN	billion
BUND	Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland (Engl: Association for the Environment and Nature Conservation Germany (BUND) – Friends of the Earth Germany)
BW	Baden-Württemberg
BY	Bavaria
CLLD	Community-Led Local Development
CF	Cohesion Fund
CY	Cyprus
CZ	Czech Republic
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DD	Danube Delta
DE	Germany
DK	Denmark
DYNAK	Dynamisch Actieplan Kempen (Engl: Kempen Dynamic Action Plan)
EAFRD	European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development
EE	Estonia
EGTC	European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ED	Spain
ESF	European Social Fund

ESIF	European Structural and Investment Funds
ETC.	et cetera
EU	European Union
FI	Finland
FLAG	Fisheries Local Action Groups
FR	France
GB	Great Britain
GR	Greece
HB	Bremen
HE	Hesse
HR	Croatia
HH	Hamburg
HU	Hungary
IE	Ireland
IROP	Integrovaný regionální operační program (Engl: Integrated Regional Operational Programme)
IT	Italy
ITI	Integrated Territorial Investment
LAG	Local Action Group
LEADER	Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale (Engl : Links between the rural economy and development actions)
LT	Lithuania
LU	Luxembourg
LV	Latvia
M	million
MAGRAMA	Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente (Engl: Ministry for Agriculture, Food and the Environment)
MEF	Ministerul Fondurilor Europene (Engl: Ministry of European Funds)
MMR	Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj (Engl: Ministry of Rural Development)
MDRAP	Ministerul Dezvoltării Regionale și Administrației Publice (Engl: Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration)

MT	Malta
MV	Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
MWAVT	Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Arbeit, Verkehr und Technologie des Landes Schleswig-Holstein (Engl: Ministry of Economic Affairs, Employment, Transport and Technology)
NI	Lower Saxony
NL	The Netherlands
N.A.	Not available
N.S.	not specified
NW	North Rhine-Westphalia
OP	Operational Programme
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
RH	Rhineland-Palatinate
RO	Romania
SALK	Strategisch Actieplan voor Limburg in het Kwadraat (Engl: Strategic Action Plan for Limburg Squared)
SE	Sweden
SH	Schleswig-Holstein
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovakia
SL	Saarland
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprises
SN	Saxony
ST	Saxony-Anhalt
TA 2020	Territorial Agenda 2020
TH	Thuringia

1 Introduction

In the EU 2014-2020 programming period, there are two funding instruments within the framework of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF): “Community-Led Local Development (CLLD)” and “Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI)”. These offer two different approaches to contributing towards the implementation of the Territorial Agenda 2020 (TA 2020) on a regional and sub-regional level.

As a part of the “Feasibility Study helping to implement the Territorial Agenda 2020 for the 2014-2020 programming period” project, a feasibility study was conducted during the first project phase (spring 2015). This publication is based on the results of the study.

The aim of the study was to give an account of how the CLLD and ITI instruments have been implemented in the German federal states and the EU member states for the EU 2014-2020 programming period. This was based on an evaluation of various key questions that shed light on the different aspects of how the two instruments have been applied. In addition to the German federal states and the EU member states, the perspective of the European Commission was taken into consideration. The feasibility study was based primarily on a comprehensive analysis of selected documents relating to CLLD and ITI. In addition to this literature-based approach, supplementary interviews were carried out with (non-)users and developers of these two instruments. The feasibility study made a significant contribution towards providing a comprehensive overview of the implementation of the CLLD and ITI instruments in the German federal states as well as the EU member states.

This document, “CLLD and ITI as a Contribution towards Implementation of the TA 2020. Summarised Representation and Case Studies in the EU Member States” presents -after a short introduction to the topic (Chapter 2)- the comprehensive results of the feasibility study in a detailed summary (Chapter 3). The approaches to implementing CLLD and ITI in the German federal states and in the EU member states are highlighted here. In Chapter 4, ten case studies from various EU member states illustrate different approaches to implementing CLLD and ITI. The individual case studies are complemented by interviews with key players from the respective programme areas.

2 Subject Background

2.1 Territoriale Agenda 2020 (TA 2020)

The regions and cities of the European Union (EU) experience a diversity of economic, social and ecological challenges and distinctive territorial influences. A balanced and integrated spatial development approach assists in tackling these challenges effectively. The EU TA 2020, which sets out the principles and goals of integrated regional development in the EU, plays an important role in this regard.

The TA 2020 creates a political framework for supporting territorial cohesion in Europe. Its objective is to “...provide strategic orientations for territorial development, fostering integration of territorial dimension within different policies at all governance levels and to ensure implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy according to territorial cohesion principles.”¹ As such, the TA 2020 is based on the premise that the goals formulated in the Europe 2020 strategy for intelligent, sustainable and integrated growth can only be achieved if the territorial dimension of the strategy is taken into account.

The TA 2020 therefore aims to provide specific recommendations for action for the better use of local potential, in order to achieve the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy, while taking local needs into consideration. As such, the place-based approach to policy formulation has a significant role to play in supporting territorial cohesion. A place’s territorial potential should be fulfilled through development strategies which are based on locally-identified needs, and supported by specific factors which contribute to enhanced competitiveness. This potential can be utilised to implement improved solutions for long-term development, and thereby make a contribution towards achieving the goals set out in the EU 2020 strategy. In order to do so, the TA 2020 sets out six territorial priorities which can support the successful implementation of the EU 2020 strategy:

- promoting polycentric and balanced territorial development;
- encouraging integrated development in cities, rural and specific regions;
- territorial integration in cross-border and transnational functional regions;
- ensuring global competitiveness of the regions based on strong local economies;
- improving territorial connectivity for individuals, communities and enterprises;
- managing and connecting ecological, landscape and cultural values of regions.

For the EU 2014-2020 programming period, the EU’s ESIF regulations envisage not only “classical” projects for stimulating the economy and employment, but also the possibility of supporting regional development projects in individual EU member states (or several EU member states for cross-border projects) which can directly contribute to the implementation of the TA 2020. The CLLD and ITI ESIF instruments can be employed to that end. By applying local development strategies, they follow a territorial, integrated approach, which is fine-tuned to local conditions.

¹ Europäische Union (2011)

2.2 Community-Led Local Development (CLLD)

The CLLD instrument is set out in Article 32 to 35 of the General Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) no. 1303/2013.² CLLD is applied as a uniform method in the ESIF framework, and is characterised by the following specific elements. CLLD concentrates on particular sub-regional areas. It should be led by local partners, who should be organised into a so-called Local Action Group (LAG). The LAGs should formulate integrated, multi-sectoral local development strategies, which incorporate regional needs and potential. CLLD is therefore based on an integrated, bottom-up approach, i.e., the local partners (LAGs) can drive regional development by incorporating a long-term perspective on territorial development by formulating their local development strategies, and following up on their implementation.

The approach by which measures towards local development are led by the local population has established itself as the so-called “LEADER” concept for implementing development measures, and has received consistent EU funding since 1991. During the 2007-2013 programming period, LEADER could only be implemented through the European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) or the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). However, in the 2014-2020 programming period, CLLD can be implemented through four ESIFs: the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the EAFRD and the EMFF –, in terms of Article 32, Paragraph. 1 General Regulation (EU) no. 1303/2013. The implementation of EAFRD programmes is compulsory. In the 2014-2020 programming period, the coherent and integrated use of the ESIF for CLLD is possible for the first time.

In the 2014-2020 programming period, many changes to the LEADER concept are aimed at simplifying the implementation of CLLD. Firstly, CLLD will be possible as an overall approach for all ESIF and regions, so that all areas can benefit from EU financing of locally-driven development strategies. Furthermore, CLLD makes it easier to develop multi-funded strategies, which are better adapted to the regional requirements of an area.

The CLLD approach can be applied to various types of areas, such as “rural areas”, “fishing and coastal areas”, or “cities and urban areas”.³ In urban areas, for example, city centres, disadvantaged districts, suburbs or cities (including their surrounding rural areas) can be targeted with the assistance of CLLD.

2.3 Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI)

The ITI instrument is defined in Article 36 General Regulation. (EU) no. 1303/2013.⁴ Through the ITI approach, the implementation of integrated strategies may be supported in ways that specifically take the relevant territorial challenges into account. ITI can be financed through the ERDF, the ESF and the Cohesion Fund (CF). In addition, supplementary investments can be made by the EAFRD or the EMFF.

It is possible to use a combination of different ESIFs in a single ITI. As such, the ITI approach can be used to bundle together investments from multiple priority axes of one or more operational programmes which, among other things, ensures their relevance to the thematic objectives set out in the Europe 2020 strategy. This makes ITI a relatively flexible instrument in terms of planning and financing the operational programmes of the relevant ESIF.

² Europäische Kommission (2013c)

³ Generaldirektion Regionalpolitik und Stadtentwicklung der Europäische Kommission (2014a)

⁴ Europäische Kommission (2013c)

By considering different priority axes and funds, ITI also facilitates various subject and territorial orientations. As such, ITI can be implemented, for example, in cities and urban areas, socially-disadvantaged districts, metropolitan regions, functional regions (for example, economic areas), rural regions or regions in a peripheral location.

In contrast to CLLD, the ITI instrument does not specify in advance how investments in the region must be implemented. Hence, with ITI, there can be “top-down” and “bottom-up” approaches, or a combination of both.

The ITI approach is characterised by several core elements. These include a designated area and an integrated territorial development strategy. The key to successfully implementing ITI is a multi-sectoral and integrated development strategy that is based on the region’s developmental requirements. Within this framework, any region with specific territorial characteristics can serve as an area for ITI, for example, urban districts, metropolitan areas, rural areas adjacent to cities, sub-regional or inter-regional levels. In addition, it is possible to subsidise measures in different areas with similar conditions within a region (for example, a network of small cities). A further distinguishing element is the comprehensive package of measures for implementation. All measures carried out within the ITI framework should contribute towards achieving the thematic objectives of the respective priority axes of the OP involved, and the developmental goals of the development strategy. Another hallmark of the ITI approach is the specific governance regulations for management. The OP managing authorities are responsible for the management and implementation of the ITI’s instrument-related measures. However, part of the management may be transferred to an intermediate body, for example local authorities, regional development bodies and non-governmental organisations.⁵

⁵ Generaldirektion Regionalpolitik und Stadtentwicklung der Europäische Kommission (2014b)

3 Summarised Results of the Feasibility Study

The central methodological approach for conducting the feasibility study was based on a qualitative analysis of key documents. The scope of this analysis incorporated selected documents from various levels relating to the CLLD and ITI instruments. These include the operational programmes of the German federal states (13 2014-2020 EAFRD programmes⁶, 15 2014-2020 ERDF programmes, 15 2014-2020 ESF programmes, one multi-funded 2014-2020 programme for ERDF and ESF⁷) and the federal government (2014-2020 EMFF programme⁸), the 28 partnership agreements of the EU member states⁹ and documents from the European Commission. Guidelines of the German federal states, the EU member states and the European Commission on the implementation of CLLD and ITI were also included in the analysis. In addition, current documents and presentations, published in the course of events relating to CLLD and ITI (for example, the European Week of Regions and Cities Open Days) were included in the analysis. The legal basis comprises the relevant EU regulations, such as Regulation (EU) no. 1303/2013, and the regulations of the individual ESIF (EAFRD, ERDF, ESF, EMFF, CF).

The descriptions of CLLD and ITI in the documents that were analysed sometimes differed widely. This was particularly the case with the relevant chapters in the partnership agreements. With respect to the depth of information provided, some partnership agreements described the implementation of CLLD and/or ITI in great detail, while other partnership agreements provided few details.

The documents identified and/or the relevant chapters pertaining to CLLD and ITI were evaluated based on an analytical framework, consisting of nine key questions, each highlighting different aspects of CLLD and ITI. The key questions focussed on the functionality and the potential scope for applying CLLD and ITI. They also factored in the possible benefits and obstacles that may arise due to the implementation of CLLD and ITI.

In addition to the qualitative document analysis, ten telephone interviews were carried out, based on the guidelines. The interviews served to obtain supplementary information which was not obtainable from the documents analysed, and to gain further insight into specific relevant aspects of the implementation of these instruments. The interview partners/organisations were chosen for the different territorial levels (German federal states, EU member states, European Commission).

⁶ Hamburg has not set up an EAFRD programme. Lower Saxony and Bremen and Berlin and Brandenburg have respectively set up joint EAFRD programmes.

⁷ Lower Saxony has set up a multi-funded programme for the ERDF and ESF funds.

⁸ At the time of completing the feasibility study, the EMFF programme was only available in a draft version (Version 1.0 as at May 2015). The data shown from the EMFF programme therefore reflects this draft version (Version 1.0).

⁹ In the partnership agreements, the implementation of CLLD and/or ITI was described at a global level for the respective member states, and therefore only set out in a generalised format. More specific information on this is provided in the operational programmes of the member states, some of which were not yet finalised at the time of submitting and/or authorising the partnership agreements. The descriptions of implementing CLLD and ITI in the partnership agreements therefore reflect the status available at the time of submitting and/or authorising the partnership agreements.

3.1 CLLD in the German Federal States

In Germany, the implementation of the CLLD approach takes place at a federal state level. CLLD is being applied in all German federal states during the 2014-2020 programming period. The implementation of CLLD in the individual states differs in terms of the types of CLLD areas subsidised, the ESIF utilised, and the extent of the funding available (see Table 1).

Table 1: Implementation of the CLLD approach in the German federal states

Source: Operational programmes from ESIF in the German federal states

Federal states	Rural areas	Fishing and coastal areas	Cities and urban areas	ESIF utilised	CLLD total funds (EU share) (in Euro)	CLLD share of ESIF (in %)
Baden-Württemberg (BW)	✓	-	-	EARDF	50,400,000 ¹⁰	4.5
Bavaria (BY)	✓	✓ ¹¹	-	EARDF, EMFF ¹²	76,000,000 ¹⁰	3.3
Berlin (B) ¹³	✓	-	-	EARDF	See Brandenburg	-
Brandenburg (BB) ¹³	✓	-	-	EARDF	279,100,000	7.0
Bremen (HB) ¹⁴	✓	✓ ¹¹	-	EARDF, EMFF ¹²	See Lower Saxony	-
Hamburg (HH)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hesse (HE)	✓	-	-	EARDF	40,010,564	5.5
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (MV)	✓	✓ ¹⁵	-	EARDF, EMFF ¹⁶	78,971,100 ¹⁰	3.6
Lower Saxony (NI) ¹⁴	✓	✓ ¹¹	-	EARDF, EMFF ¹²	86,454,362 ¹⁰	4.5
North Rhine-Westphalia (NW)	✓	-	-	EARDF	58,000,000	4.1
Rhineland-Palatinate (RP)	✓	-	-	EARDF	50,904,232	9.2
Saarland (SL)	✓	-	-	EARDF	6,000,000	2.4
Saxony (SN)	✓	✓ ¹¹	-	EARDF, EMFF ¹²	364,342,018 ¹⁰	10.2
Saxony-Anhalt (ST)	✓	-	-	EARDF, ERDF, ESF	100,392,789	3.5
Schleswig-Holstein (SH)	✓	✓ ¹¹	-	EARDF, EMFF ¹²	63,000,000 ¹⁰	8.1
Thuringia (TH)	✓	-	-	EARDF	45,100,000	2.0

¹⁰ Not including CLLD funds from the EMFF. Details of CLLD funding levels in the federal states which plan to utilise the EMFF are not included in the EMFF OP (Version 1.0, draft).

¹¹ Implementation is provisionally planned (as of May 2015).

¹² The use of CLLD funds from the EMFF is provisionally planned (as of May 2015).

¹³ Berlin and Brandenburg have respectively set up joint EAFRD programmes.

¹⁴ Lower Saxony and Bremen have respectively set up joint EAFRD programmes.

¹⁵ Implementation has not yet been decided (as of May 2015).

¹⁶ The use of CLLD funds from the EMFF has not yet been decided (as of May 2015).

The ESIF funds utilised (see Table 1) are applied within the framework of a [mono- and/or multi-funded approach](#)¹⁷. Here there are notable differences between the federal states. In the majority (nine) of the states,¹⁸ CLLD is implemented within the framework of a mono-funded approach, even when utilising multiple ESIFs (EAFRD, EMFF). In Saxony-Anhalt and Saxony the use of a multi-funded approach is possible in the CLLD areas. As such, financing in Saxony-Anhalt was made available from the EAFRD, ERDF and ESF for implementing CLLD (see Chapter 4.1). In Saxony, the CLLD areas can receive financing from the EAFRD and EMFF. In three further federal states (Bavaria, Bremen, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern) it is envisaged that financing will be drawn down from CLLD funds via both the EAFRD and the EMFF. In this regard, no information is available (as of May 2015) as to whether a mono- or multi-funded approach will be used.

It proved difficult to establish why the overwhelming majority of the German federal states only use the CLLD instrument within the framework of a mono-funded approach. Implementation issues for example, a possible increase in the administrative burden) and content issues (for example, certain regional partners considered CLLD unsuitable for implementing the specific goals of the other ESIFs) may both play a role. However, no hard-and-fast conclusions can be reached on the reasons for the relatively low use of the multi-funded approach.

The fact that the [amounts of the CLLD funds](#) vary significantly in certain federal states (see Table 1), is attributable, amongst other things, to the different levels of the overall EAFRD budgets in those individual states.

CLLD is not applied on a [cross-border basis](#) in any federal state, spanning the border region of a federal state and a neighbouring EU member state.

3.2 CLLD in the EU Member States

The use of the CLLD instrument is envisaged for all EU member states during the 2014-2020 programming period. The individual member states have, however, different approaches to implementing CLLD.

In the CLLD framework, the EU member states each support different kinds of the [area types](#) indicated, and by the same token, a different number of CLLD area types. In that context, the CLLD approach is used in the “rural areas” type in all 28 EU member states, because the implementation of CLLD (LEADER) in those areas is compulsory under the EAFRD. The second most frequent use of CLLD (in a total of 21 EU member states¹⁹) is the “fishing and coastal areas” type. In more than half (16) of member states²⁰ CLLD is used in “cities and urban areas”. With respect to the number of CLLD area types subsidised, a total of 14 EU member states²¹ support CLLD in all three area types. Two CLLD area types (primarily “rural areas” and “fishing and coastal areas”) are supported by a total of nine EU member states²². Five member states²³ only use the CLLD approach in a single area type (“rural areas”).

¹⁷ It is considered to be a multi-funded approach if an ex-ante allocation of funds is made by at least two ESIF without specific, binding projects.

¹⁸ BW, B/BB, HE, NI/HB, NW, RH, SH, SL, TH

¹⁹ BE, BG, CY, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, IE, IT, LT, LV, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI.

²⁰ BE, BG, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IT, LT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, SE.

²¹ BE, BG, ES, FI; FR, GB, GR, IT, LT, PL, PT, RO, SI, SE.

²² CY, DE, DK, EE, IE, HR, HU, NL, LV.

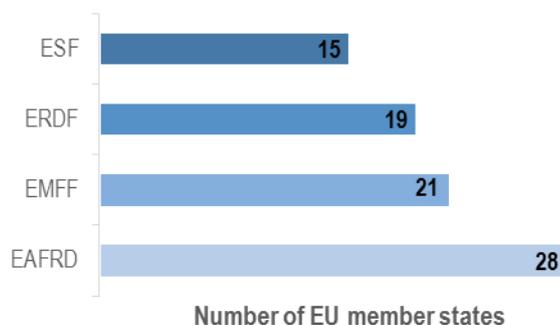
²³ AT, CZ, LU, MT, SK.

The **ESIFs utilised** for implementing CLLD are characterised by different topical areas of focus, and tend (with the exception of the ESF) to concentrate on a specific area type.²⁴

Figure 1 shows that the EU member states use the EAFRD and EMFF more extensively than the ERDF and ESF for the implementation of CLLD.

Figure 1: ESIF utilised to implement CLLD in the EU member states²⁵

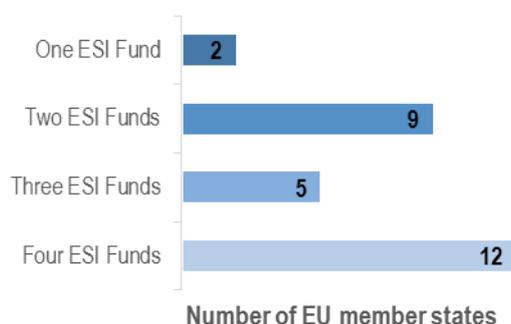
Source: Partnership agreements 2014-2020 of the EU member states



There is also a varied picture regarding the number of ESIFs utilised per EU member state (see Figure 2). Among those using two ESIFs, the most common combination is funding from the EAFRD and the EMFF.

Figure 2: Number of ESIFs utilised per EU member state

Source: 2014-2020 Partnership agreements of the EU member states



For a majority of the member states, the use of a **multi-funded approach** in the local development strategies of the CLLD areas is possible. Decisions regarding whether or not to use a multi-funded approach, and/or the selection of the ESIF to be utilised, are made at the CLLD area level. Factors such as the specific needs of the individual regions, as well as the selected intervention areas of the strategy, play a role in these decisions. For a total of six member states²⁶ the implementation of CLLD is seen as part of a **mono-funded approach**, even if multiple ESIFs are used. In Romania, both approaches are used: the implementation of CLLD in rural areas takes place exclusively through the EAFRD: however, in “cities and urban areas”, a multi-funded approach (ERDF, ESF) is possible.

²⁴ Generaldirektionen der Landwirtschaft und Ländliche Entwicklung (AGRI), Beschäftigung Soziales und Chancengleichheit (EMPL) Maritime Angelegenheiten und Fischerei (MARE) und Regionalpolitik und Stadtentwicklung (REGIO) der Europäischen Kommission (2013)

²⁵ **EMFF**: BE, BG, CY, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, IE, IT, LT, LV, PL, PT, RO, SI, SE; **ERDF**: AT, BE, CZ, BG, DE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SI, SE, SK; **ESF**: BG, CZ, DE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IT, LT, PL, PT, RO, SE.

²⁶ BE, HR, IE, LU, MT, RO.

Ensuring more flexibility and greater efficiency for the development strategy is a motivation for using the multi-funded approach. A further advantage is often seen in the fact that by using multiple ESIFs, the impact of the development strategies can be maximised. Reasons for adopting the mono-funded approach include, amongst others, simplifying the subsidy situation, reducing the administrative burden, and an under-capacity for implementation (in terms of, for instance, administration and/or stakeholders). However, these statements do not allow any general conclusions to be drawn about the reasons for the use of a mono- or multi-funded approach.

CLLD is only being implemented on a [cross-border basis](#) as part of the Italy-Austria 2014-2020 INTERREG Cooperation Programme. The CLLD areas are spread across the border regions of the Italian and Austrian sides of the programme area (see Chapter 4.5).

3.3 Motivations for the Implementation of CLLD

Even though the application of CLLD is compulsory within the EAFRD framework, the majority of member states and the German federal states have listed their motivations for using CLLD. The most important can be summarised as follows:

[Established approach](#) - The bottom-up principle on which CLLD is based has become an established approach, which has already been successfully implemented, for example in the framework of LEADER in the 2007-2013, and previous, programming periods. The approach has been tried and tested, and proven to be successful. The bottom-up principle is widely accepted amongst the local population.

[Encouraging local commitment](#) - CLLD encourages local commitment by actively involving local partners, for example, through raising awareness, involvement in the LAG, and participation of the local population in decision-making processes. This strengthens civil society in these areas, and can help citizens identify more with their region.

[Considering local factors](#) - In the framework of CLLD, long-term regional development strategies are agreed upon, which are determined and supported by the local population. These strategies formulate solutions, which are based on local resources and potential. CLLD harnesses local strengths and competencies from both the private and public sectors to facilitate territorial development. Measures which are implemented in the course of CLLD have a direct influence on the respective region.

[Strengthening territorial cohesion](#) - CLLD strengthens territorial cohesion and development at a local level, based on the local integrated development strategies. As such, CLLD contributes to balanced development of the areas concerned.

[Integrated regional development](#) - CLLD is an instrument that facilitates integrated regional development. This is accentuated by the fact that the multi-funded approach within CLLD can broaden the spectrum of topics that can be addressed by development strategies.

[Added value vs individual projects](#) - The challenges in the CLLD areas require specific problem-solving approaches. By considering specific local requirements, and the potential synergies which can be achieved through integrated development strategies, this approach creates added value in comparison with individual projects which are not locally-driven.

Realising synergies - Through the CLLD's multi-funded approach, it is possible to integrate various policy areas into CLLD. This creates the opportunity to generate new synergies, which would not be possible to the same extent with the LEADER approach. This enables the implementation of holistic projects on a customised subsidy basis within CLLD.

Improving social and territorial cohesion - CLLD is an instrument that helps the regions to help themselves, based on the principle of subsidiarity. The regions can determine and take responsibility for their own measures, projects and solutions to problems, and thereby make full use of their individual abilities and potential. In this way, CLLD contributes towards improving social and territorial cohesion.

Encouraging innovation - CLLD is an appropriate instrument for encouraging innovation, especially at a local level. The instrument is very flexible, and can therefore be adjusted to meet local requirements and maximise the use of local potential. CLLD is targeted at the lowest (i.e. local) level, and is able to stimulate innovation from this basis, which is sustained by the local partners.

In summary, it can be noted that there is a high degree of similarity between the stated motivations of the EU member states and the German federal states regarding the implementation of CLLD and the goals of the TA 2020.

3.4 Subject Focus of CLLD

In order to apply CLLD in the different area types, specific thematic priorities are identified which need to be addressed in ways that are relevant to each area type. The multiplicity of thematic priorities identified were summarised into higher-level thematic areas. On this basis, similar higher-level thematic areas to be addressed through CLLD (such as business, tourism, nature and environment, infrastructure, services and existential needs, living conditions and social inclusion) can be determined for the CLLD area types. The thematic priorities listed in these areas for the three area types are adjusted according to the spatial context of the relevant area type. The "classical" thematic priorities, typically relevant to rural areas, are now also being expanded to the urban areas by individual member states.

3.5 ITI in the German Federal States

The implementation of ITI in Germany is determined by the individual federal states. In the 2014-2020 programming period, ITI is not, however, being applied in the majority of the German federal states. It is only being followed in Baden-Württemberg and Schleswig-Holstein.

In **Baden-Württemberg**, ITI is being implemented as part of the "Regional competitiveness through innovation and sustainability - RegioWIN" competition. It is being subsidised with funding from the ERDF programme (€68.21M²⁷) and thereby provides support with sustainable urban development (in terms of Regulation (EU) 1301/2013 Article 7).

Due to a range of structural challenges, the innovative capacity of Baden-Württemberg is not evenly distributed throughout its regions. These regions need to identify strategic solutions for their individual structural challenges. Through the RegioWIN competition, all functional areas comprising urban cores in the programme area can be subsidised. In addition, both priority axes of the ERDF programme (A: research, technological development and innovation; and B: reduction of CO₂ emissions) can be tackled in whichever

²⁷ This corresponds to 27.6 % of ERDF funding for the Baden-Württemberg ERDF OP, worth approx. €246.6 M.

combination or weighting best meets regional needs.²⁸ Essentially, the RegioWIN competition aims to support integrated approaches to innovation-orientated regional development. Thereby, regional growth and innovation potential should be more effectively identified, and projects supported that can make a significant contribution to the specific development needs of the respective areas.²⁹

During the initial stages of the state-wide “RegioWIN” competition, regional strategy concepts (which also include flagship projects) were advanced, and evaluated by an independent jury. The prize-winning regional strategy concepts were then further developed into deliverable regional development concepts with specific projects. These were also evaluated by the jury, together with the flagship projects to be funded by the ERDF. At the start of 2015, 11 regions and 21 flagship projects were awarded prizes.³⁰

In [Schleswig-Holstein](#), the ITI instrument is used on the west coast of the state, and is subsidised by funds from the ERDF. More details on the specific implementation are provided in the case study on ITI in Schleswig-Holstein in Chapter 4.6.

3.6 ITI in the EU Member States

The application of the ITI instrument is not compulsory for EU member states during the 2014-2020 programming period. However, the majority (20) of member states, have decided to do so, adopting different approaches to its implementation.

In addition to obligatory ERDF funding, the majority of the member states also obtain ESF³¹ support to finance [ITI](#). Only four member states³² plan to implement ITI using funds from the CF, ERDF and ESF. Supplementary financing from the EAFRD has been obtained by three member states³³. Similarly, three member states³⁴ have accessed additional support from the EMFF. Hence, it is clear that the majority of member states have taken a multi-funded approach to the implementation of ITI, and that in most cases this is comprised entirely of the ERDF and ESF.

Table 2 shows an overview of the ITI funding available through the ESIFs utilised. The table lists only the EU member states (12 of 20) who provided details of funding available in their partnership agreements.

²⁸ Ministerium für Ländlichen Raum und Verbraucherschutz Baden-Württemberg (2014)

²⁹ Ministerium für Ländlichen Raum und Verbraucherschutz Baden-Württemberg (2014)

³⁰ Landesamt für Geoinformation und Landentwicklung Baden-Württemberg (2015)

³¹ BE, CZ, ES, FI, GB, HR, LI, NL, PL, RO, SE, SK.

³² CZ, HR, LT, RO, SI.

³³ FR, GR, RO.

³⁴ ES, GR, RO.

Table 2: Overview of ITI funding utilised by EU member states
(whose partnership agreements contain details of funding available)

Source: Partnership agreements of the EU member states; partially own calculations

EU member state		ERDF	ESF	EARDF	EMFF	CF	Total
Germany	in Euro	98,210,000	-	-	-	-	98,210,000
	in % of ESIF	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finland	in Euro	39,460,000	n.a. ³⁵	-	-	-	-
	in % of ESIF	5 %	-	-	-	-	-
Croatia	in Euro	273,351,269	42,000,000	-	-	50,000,000	365,351,269
	in % of ESIF	6.32 %	2.77 %	-	-	1.95 %	3.4 %
Latvia	in Euro	230,848,621	-	-	-	-	-
	in % of ESIF	9.61 %	-	-	-	-	-
Lithuania	in Euro	551,127,000	19,481,000	-	-	130,000,000	700,608,000
	in % of ESIF	n.a.	n.a.	-	-	n.a.	n.a.
Luxembourg	in Euro	n.a.	-	-	-	-	-
	in % of ESIF	6 %	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands	in Euro	45,563,293	25,000,000	-	-	-	70,563,293
	in % of ESIF	9 %	5 %	-	-	-	4.1 %
Poland	in Euro	2,112,300,000	272,600,000	-	-	-	2,384,900,000
	in % of ESIF	5.2 %	2.4 %	-	-	-	2.8 %
Romania	in Euro	709,620,000	76,000,000	168,000,000	50,000,000	107,640,000	1,111,260,000
	in % of ESIF	6.6 %	1.6 %	2.1 %	29.7 %	1.5 %	3.6 %
Sweden	in Euro	around 50.000.000	n.a. ³⁶	-	-	-	-
	in % of ESIF	n.a.	n.a.	-	-	-	-
Slovakia	in Euro	900,526,861	n.a.	-	-	-	-
	in % of ESIF	12.23 %	n.a.	-	-	-	-
Slovenia	in Euro	107,130,370	-	-	-	10,000,000	117,130,370
	in % of ESIF	7.7 %	-	-	-	1.1 %	5.12 %

Table 2 clearly shows that every member state implementing ITI receives the bulk of its financing from the ERDF. The proportion of ERDF funding as an element of the total cost of financing ITI ranges from 63.9 % to 91.4 % for those member states who use multiple funds for that purpose. In the case of those member states who also use the ESF to fund ITI, the volumes of ESF drawn down are significantly lower than those of ERDF funding utilised. The proportion of ESF funding accessed out of the total ITI funding ranges from 2.7 % to 35.4 %. No conclusions can be drawn about the other funds utilised, as few details are available about these in the partnership agreements.

ITI is being applied in the EU member states in various [region types](#), which each have specific [thematic priorities](#) in place.

In the cities and urban areas, socially disadvantaged districts and metropolitan regions, ITI is being implemented under the framework of sustainable urban development. This applies to twelve of the relevant member states. There is a wide variety of thematic priorities available which can be targeted by individual

³⁵ ESF funding is used, but no specific amounts are earmarked in advance.

³⁶ Cooperation with the structural fund is possible, and should be strived for where relevant, for example, with the Social Fund.

ITI approaches as part of sustainable urban development. From an overall perspective, the thematic priorities can be broadly categorised into economic sustainability (for example, sustainable economic growth), ecological sustainability (for example, adjustment to climate change) and social sustainability (for example fighting poverty) (see Chapter 4.10).

With regard to metropolitan regions, it is also clear that the functional connection between core cities in metropolitan regions and their surrounding areas can be further improved. Topics such as improving transport or strengthening research and innovation in the entire metropolitan region are highlighted (see Chapter 4.8).

In individual EU member states, ITI is also applied in functional areas. These areas are primarily regional economic areas that have been severely hit by structural change and/or the economic and financial crisis. Thematic priorities for ITI in these regions include, for example, stabilising the economic base or creating jobs (see Chapter 4.9).

In addition, ITI is being implemented in individual regions, particularly to promote development in regions that are mainly rural, as well as in regions with a peripheral location. There exists a broad variety of thematic priorities to be addressed in the ITI regions including, for example, improvements in primary services, or the sustainable development of the regional economy (see Chapter 4.7).

The ITI instrument is being implemented on a [cross-border basis](#) as part of the Italy-Slovenia 2014-2020 INTERREG Cooperation Programme. The long-standing cross-border cooperation through the EGTC between the cities of Gorizia (IT), Nova Gorica and Šempeter-Vrtojba (SLO) will be continued. With the implementation of ITI, the parties involved are working, amongst other things, to build a framework for stable, strategic cooperation in an urban area that is currently divided by a border.³⁷

[Governance arrangements](#) covering ITI demonstrate that in the majority of EU member states, the implementation of ITI is being led by the responsible managing authorities of the participating ESIF. Where several managing authorities of various ESIFs are involved in a single ITI, their activities are coordinated.

In individual member states, there are intermediary pre-existing or newly-created bodies for implementing ITI. Even though these bodies may differ in their specific tasks in each country, they all share the attribute that representatives from regional, sub-regional and local levels are institutionally included in the process. There is a certain range of tasks that are carried out by a majority of these bodies. They include, for example, preparing the implementation of development strategies, coordinating the development strategies or the selection of projects as well as monitoring the strategies' implementation.

3.7 Motivations for the Implementation of ITI

The motives for implementing the ITI instrument in the EU member states include the following, in particular:

[Integrated approach](#) - This provides an opportunity to generate new stimuli for regional development. In this regard, ITI is seen as an attractive means of achieving targeted regional development, because of the potential to integrate different funds and administrative levels in connection with the inclusion of spatial components.

³⁷ Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia (2015)

Leverage effect – Through the targeted use of two or more ESIFs, the member states hope to achieve a leverage effect for regional development. They hope for a greater regional impact of the projects from ESIF funding within the ITI framework than they could achieve with separate ESIF funding for each individual project.

Strategic approach – The development strategies arising from ITI provide the opportunity to create a holistic strategic horizon for each region, which is orientated towards specific goals and coordinates future developments. Investments from ITI make it possible to create a development strategy for every ITI region, which is customised according to the specific challenges, and can thereby incorporate cross-sectoral and sector-specific measures. Together with the integration of the various administrative levels, this enables the place-based approach towards targeted regional development to be dynamically designed through the involvement of key regional players.

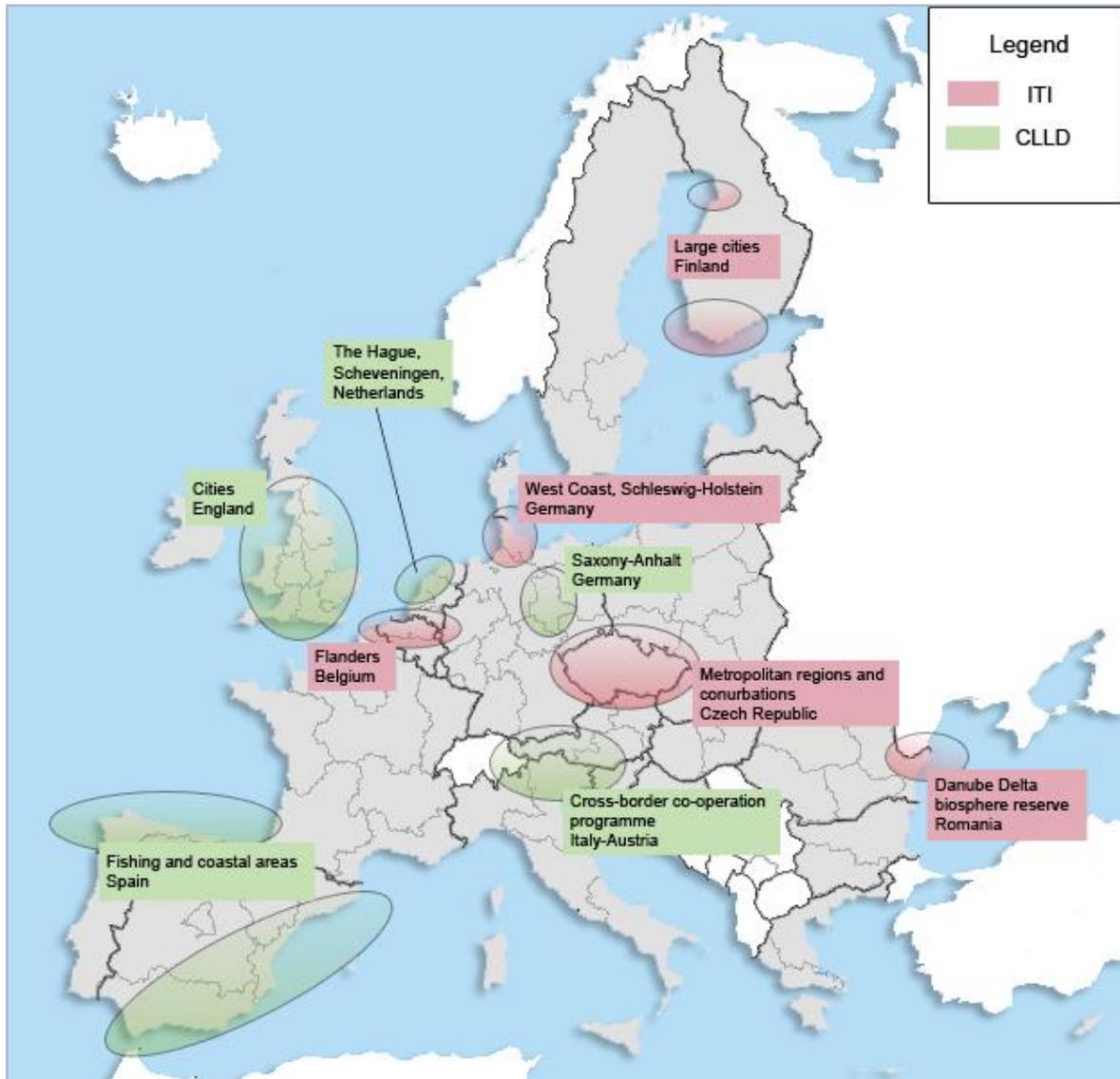
In summary, it should be noted that there is a high degree of similarity between the stated motivations regarding the implementation of ITI and the objectives of the TA 2020.

4 Case studies

This chapter presents five case studies on implementing CLLD and ITI in the EU member states on a national and regional level. The selected case studies relate to different area types such as rural areas, cities and metropolitan regions. As such, various approaches to the application of CLLD and ITI are being developed. Figure 3 gives an overview of the selected case studies.

Figure 3: Case studies on implementing CLLD and ITI in the EU Member States

Source: DSN - Connecting Knowledge 2015, own representation, base map: Eurostat - GISCO, 2014

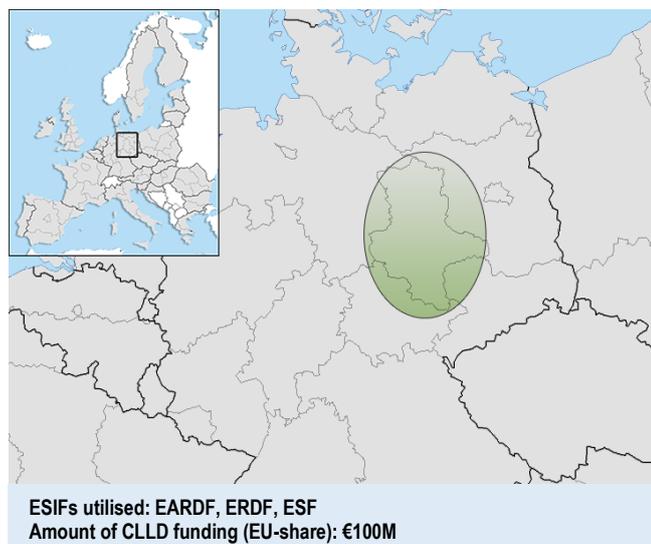


4.1 CLLD in Saxony-Anhalt

GERMANY

In Saxony-Anhalt, the CLLD approach is being implemented in rural and urban areas of the state. Excluding the municipal areas of the cities of Magdeburg and Halle (Saale), and the mainly urbanised parts of the city of Dessau-Roßlau, the subsidised area covers the whole of Saxony-Anhalt.³⁸

A multi-funded approach is being used here for implementing CLLD. The state makes a total of €100M CLLD funding available from the EAFRD (€80M)³⁹, ERDF (€14M)⁴⁰ and ESF (€6M)⁴¹. Saxony-Anhalt is the only federal state in Germany that follows a multi-



funded approach using monies from these three ESIFs. The CLLD areas themselves specified which ESIFs should be used in their development strategies and whether these strategies should be funded by one, two or all three ESIFs. The specific challenges facing the respective CLLD areas play an important role in selecting the appropriate ESIF funding.⁴²

The CLLD approach has already been applied in the rural areas of Saxony-Anhalt for the last three programming periods, with support from the EAFRD. The multi-funded approach offers new opportunities for co-operation at a local level in cities, as well as new forms of urban-rural and multi-sector cooperation. In general, the integrated use of ESIF is likely to promote synergy between the different ESIFs.⁴³

In Saxony-Anhalt, 23 CLLD areas are being subsidised.⁴⁴ These were selected by means of a state-wide competition. A panel of experts, consisting of representatives from business and social partners, the local authority associations, working groups determining rural development and experts from the specialist state departments chose the CLLD areas to be subsidised. External specialists were involved in evaluating the strategies submitted, to provide a basis for decision-making for the panel of experts.⁴⁵

Structures to facilitate cooperation were put in place at a state level, for strategic management and coordination between the managing authorities responsible for the three ESIFs. Coordinating mechanisms were also put in place at an implementation level, to facilitate operational and financial management.⁴⁶

The implementation of the CLLD approach is designed to make a contribution towards specific thematic priorities. These include boosting the economy in the rural areas of Saxony-Anhalt, as well as securing the technical, business, cultural and social infrastructure required to better cater for people's everyday needs.

³⁸ Verwaltungsbehörde, Ministerium der Finanzen des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt (2014)

³⁹ Ibidem

⁴⁰ Ministerium der Finanzen des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt (2014a)

⁴¹ Ministerium der Finanzen des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt (2014b)

⁴² Verwaltungsbehörde, Ministerium der Finanzen des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt (2014)

⁴³ Ministerium der Finanzen des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt (2014c)

⁴⁴ Ministerium der Finanzen des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt (2015)

⁴⁵ Ibidem

⁴⁶ Verwaltungsbehörde, Ministerium der Finanzen des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt (2014)

CLLD will also support aims centring on the sustainable environment and nature protection, strengthening rural tourism and the cultural infrastructure. Further aims include harnessing the full potential of the labour force through measures such as enhanced qualifications, supporting the work-life balance, and providing appropriate working conditions for workers of different age-groups. CLLD also seeks to reduce the population exodus, mainly of younger people, from Saxony-Anhalt, and encourage their return.⁴⁷



Thorsten Kroll

Head of the EU Administration Authority for ERDF/ESF in Saxony-Anhalt (Ministry of Finance, Saxony-Anhalt)

Photo: Ministry of Finance, Saxony-Anhalt

1. What does Saxony-Anhalt hope to gain by the implementing the CLLD approach?

Saxony-Anhalt has enjoyed 20 years of successful LEADER subsidies. The state wants to build on this success with CLLD. As the EU managing authority responsible for ERDF and ESF and the local action groups are involved from the very start of this new CLLD process, one can expect that the goals set out in the authorised development strategies can be achieved even better with the support of ERDF and ESF funding. The range of subsidies has been expanded significantly. Through the multi-funded approach, synergies which were previously unachievable can be realised. A core goal of CLLD is to identify local development needs.

2. What are the particular characteristics and/or challenges related to the functioning and area of application of the CLLD approach that you use?

Saxony-Anhalt bases its approach on the methods proven to be effective for LEADER with EAFRD funding. This is achieved by close cooperation between the managing authority responsible for EAFRD and the managing authority responsible for ERDF/ESF. As such, for ERDF and ESF funding, CLLD uses the process that has been in place since 2005, which reserves funds for the local action groups for a number of years without legal claim, to facilitate long-term planning. This ability to plan ahead is a significant motivating factor for the local action groups. As things stand at present, CLLD will be applied to ERDF and ESF, according to subsidy guidelines still to be determined. Before the subsidies are paid, the necessary capacities must be created in the administrations and local action groups. Training and other support must be provided to ensure adequate leadership of the local action groups.

3. What contribution can the CLLD approach make towards implementation of the Territorial Agenda 2020 in your programme area?

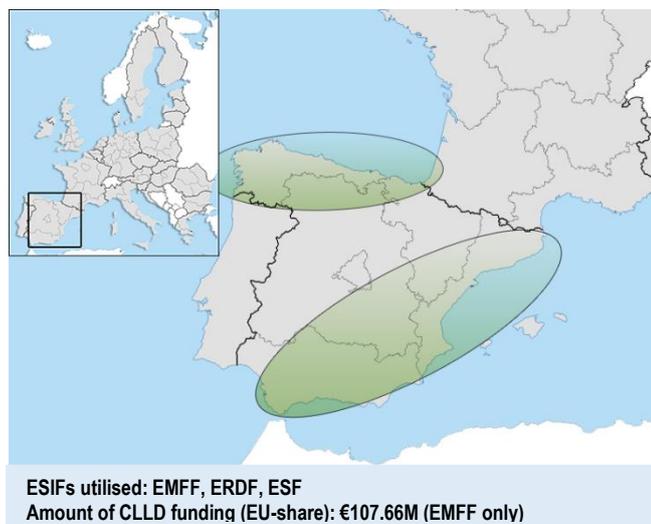
By incorporating the territorial dimension, the approach to policy-making using CLLD contributes to territorial cohesion and to achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy. Integrated territorial development is triggered by activating the territorial potential through the local strategies. Most local action groups in Saxony-Anhalt are experienced enough by now to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of their region, and to develop good strategies that are tailor-made for the local characteristics. CLLD has the potential to become an indispensable building block on the road to the future of EU subsidies.

⁴⁷ Verwaltungsbehörde, Ministerium der Finanzen des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt (2014)

4.2 CLLD in Fishing and Coastal Areas

SPAIN

In addition to the implementation of CLLD in rural areas and cities, this instrument is also used in Spain in fishing and coastal areas.⁴⁸ Physical, economic and social criteria are evaluated to determine whether an area is eligible for subsidies for this area type. These include, for example, the type of area (for example, small coastal communities with fishing activities), the presence of producer groups and fishing industry associations, or the weighting of the fishing sector (proportion of the population employed in the fishing industry relative to the total population of the area).⁴⁹



The traditional fishing and coastal areas in most Spanish regions are characterised by a process of structural, social and ecological change.⁵⁰ These areas are often plagued by a shrinking and ageing population, low economic activity and high unemployment, a lack of basic public services, or environmental problems.⁵¹ In spite of these weaknesses, these areas often have significant potential in a variety of economic and ecological areas. For example, there are opportunities to be realised by better links between the tourism and fishing sectors. In order to utilise this potential, an integrated approach such as the one applied through CLLD is beneficial.⁵²

In the framework of the Spanish EMFF programme, CLLD is prioritised under Priority 4: “Increasing employment and territorial cohesion”. In the fishing and coastal areas, CLLD in Spain is primarily financed out of EMFF funds. For these areas, CLLD funding amounting to €107.66M has been made available.⁵³ Where appropriate, the development strategies supported by EMFF funding can be further supported by additional CLLD funding from the ERDF and ESF. This decision is made jointly by the fisheries local action groups (FLAG) and the managing authorities (and also, where applicable, the intermediate bodies involved in the programme). It also depends on the topical focus of the strategies. If CLLD development strategies in rural areas and coastal areas overlap significantly in their areas of activity, these areas can be managed by a LAG (LEADER) and a FLAG, which have the same management structure. If necessary, the involvement of the EMFF can be restricted to focussing on the areas linked to the fishing sector.⁵⁴

The CLLD development strategies in the Spanish coastal and fishery areas are aimed at supporting job creation. For example, the strong interdependence between tourism - which is traditionally a distinctive feature of coastal areas - and the fishing industry can provide the basis for a new economic offer and

⁴⁸ The fishing and coastal areas consist of coastal or surrounding areas with activities that are linked to the fishing industry, the mussel industry, aquaculture and other related economic activities.

⁴⁹ Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente (2014)

⁵⁰ Ibidem

⁵¹ Ministerio de Hacienda y Administraciones Publicas (2014)

⁵² Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente (2014)

⁵³ Ibidem

⁵⁴ Ministerio de Hacienda y Administraciones Publicas (2014)

therefore lead to employment growth in the areas concerned. Furthermore, with the support of the CLLD strategies, it may be possible to enhance the profitability of the local fishing industry. This can be achieved, for example, through marketing campaigns, awareness-raising activities, or quality improvement. CLLD can also contribute to the diversification of the local economy by introducing new economic activities. For instance, new opportunities can be created by exploiting the area's natural and cultural heritage. Through measures such as these, similar positive outcomes for the living conditions of the local population can be expected.⁵⁵

The implementation of CLLD in fishing and coastal areas in Spain is delivered through intermediate bodies at the level of the autonomous communities.⁵⁶ These intermediate bodies are, for example, responsible for the selection of the development strategies. There are generally-applicable criteria in place, through which the development strategies are selected. The intermediate bodies can further refine these criteria for a particular autonomous region and its special characteristics.⁵⁷



José Vicente Palmero Jorro

Head of support Unit
(MAGRAMA)

Photo: José Vicente Palmero Jorro
(MAGRAMA)

1. What benefits does Spain hope to gain by implementing the CLLD approach in fishing and coastal areas?

The main objective for this period will be job creation. We will start implementing the CLLD following the approval of the Spanish EMFF-Programme. We strongly believe in the economic potential of these areas, since there are a lot of possibilities to sustainably exploit existing natural and human resources. The CLLD should be the catalyst for development in these areas, as citizens and economic, political and social partners are best placed to carry it out. For this reason, we very much hope to reach this goal, especially in the current context of existing unemployment in Spain.

2. What are the particular characteristics and/or challenges related to the functioning and area of application of the CLLD approach that you use?

CLLD will mobilise and involve local communities and organisations to contribute to achieving the Europe 2020 Strategy goals. The main challenge will be the involvement of the fishery sector in CLLD, as this community has to be the main actor. Other challenges will be to train actors in different matters, like management, financing and legal issues. Finally, good communication will be essential in finding promoters with adequate projects.

3. What contribution can the CLLD approach make towards implementation of the Territorial Agenda 2020 in your programme area?

CLLD will definitely contribute to the achievement of objectives established in the Territorial Agenda 2020, by strengthening local economies and improving them. As this growth will be led by local actors, who perfectly know their needs and potential, it will be a consistent development. Furthermore, this fact will help dealing with depopulation problems in these areas. Finally, as there will be projects about environment and cultural heritage, CLLD will contribute on this Territorial Agenda priority as well.

⁵⁵ Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente (2014)

⁵⁶ Ibidem

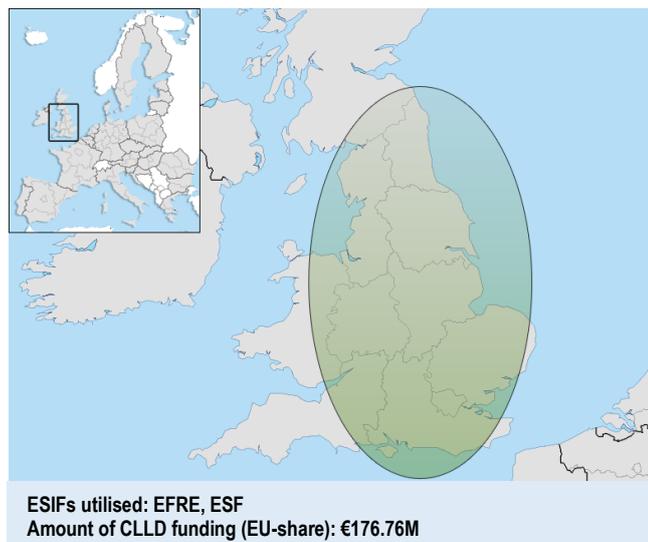
⁵⁷ Ibidem

4.3 CLLD in Cities

ENGLAND

In England, CLLD in more developed regions and regions in transition will be limited to areas that are amongst the 20% most socially-disadvantaged, according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation⁵⁸. This means that CLLD in these regions will be primarily focussed on urban areas. Areas that lie outside these boundaries can only be included in the CLLD area if they are directly adjacent, or if they form a functionally-linked economic unit with the CLLD area.⁵⁹

In the socially-disadvantaged urban areas in which the implementation of CLLD is possible, there are economic disparities with other less disadvantaged regions. These disparities relate to such things as employment rates, entrepreneurship, the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), access to the job market or the gross domestic product. Utilising CLLD should reduce these existing disparities by supporting innovative approaches to local economic development in the urban CLLD areas.⁶⁰



The CLLD approach in the socially-disadvantaged urban areas is financed by the ERDF and the ESF. In the framework of the English 2014-2020 ERDF programme, CLLD is prioritised under specific objective 8.1 “To build capacity within communities as a foundation for economic growth in deprived areas”. For this purpose, funds amounting to €36.56M⁶¹ have been allocated to financing CLLD.⁶² In the 2014-2020 ESF programme, CLLD has been allocated €65.8M⁶³ under priority axis 1 “Inclusive Labour Markets”.⁶⁴ The CLLD areas themselves decide whether to use CLLD funding from the ERDF and ESF as part of a multi-funded approach, or from one fund (ERDF or ESF) through a mono-funded approach. The local circumstances and the related goals of the development strategies are key determinants in selecting the most appropriate funding mechanism. The use of CLLD funding from the ERDF and ESF for urban areas complements the existing CLLD approaches in rural areas and fishing and coastal areas, which are primarily subsidised by the EAFRD and/or EMFF.⁶⁵

In urban areas, CLLD funding from the ERDF is mainly used to meet the needs of the local authorities and SMEs. The ESF also supports people and disadvantaged groups in these areas. Core topics which will be addressed by CLLD through the ERDF include boosting the competitiveness of the SMEs by providing

⁵⁸ The Index of Multiple Deprivation is an indicator used to describe disadvantaged areas. The following factors are included in the calculations: income, employment, health deprivation and disability, education, skills and training, barriers to housing and services, crime and living environment.

⁵⁹ Department for Communities and Local Government - United Kingdom (UK) (2015a); Department of Work and Pensions - UK (2014)

⁶⁰ Department for Communities and Local Government - UK (2015a)

⁶¹ The amount of the CLLD funding relates to more developed regions and regions in transition, and does not include the CLLD funding for less developed regions.

⁶² Department for Communities and Local Government - UK (2015a)

⁶³ The amount of the CLLD funding relates to more developed regions and regions in transition, and does not include the CLLD funding for less developed regions.

⁶⁴ Department of Work and Pensions - UK (2014)

⁶⁵ Ibidem

access to networks and services. Work will also be undertaken to improve the business infrastructure, to meet market requirements. Furthermore, avenues are being identified through which disadvantaged areas can benefit from the experience of neighbouring areas with better economic development.⁶⁶ Other thematic priorities to be addressed through CLLD funding from the ESF include, for example, reducing social and economic isolation, especially that of disadvantaged individuals and groups. In addition, ESF funding will be targeted to support the entry and/or re-entry of people into the job market.⁶⁷

When CLLD is used as part of a multi-funded approach, the ERDF and ESF managing authorities work closely with each other. This cooperation relates, for example, to requests for proposals and the evaluation of the draft CLLD development strategies.⁶⁸ The selection of the local development strategies takes place by means of a competition. Using a variety of criteria, the managing authorities evaluate the individual LAGs' CLLD development strategies and make their selections.⁶⁹



David Morrall
Head of 2014-2020 Policy, ERDF
(DCLG)
Photo: DCLG

1. What benefits does England hope to gain by implementing the CLLD approach in cities and urban areas?

In England we are focussing CLLD in the poorest areas. This is because we see the benefits of CLLD to be particularly relevant in urban and some rural places, which suffer from entrenched deprivation and where multiple barriers are holding back economic growth and economic inclusion for certain groups and individuals. For this to be sustainable, local actors must be in the driving seat, identifying and delivering solutions. This is why CLLD is the chosen tool in these circumstances.

2. What are the particular characteristics and/or challenges related to the functioning and area of application of the CLLD approach that you use?

Since CLLD is a new approach and instrument in urban areas, there may be early capacity challenges for some local partnerships who are now forming and developing bottom-up local plans. We want a balanced Local Action Group that brings together economic, social and environmental actors who reflect and represent the multiple challenges and opportunities in CLLD areas, and, longer term who can continue to build local communities post-CLLD. This will take time and in some cases intensive work to achieve.

3. What contribution can the CLLD approach make towards implementation of the Territorial Agenda 2020 in your programme area?

CLLD will be used in England to tackle spatially concentrated multiple challenges. By combining ERDF and ESF in a territorially specific, small-scale way it will complement the use of Sustainable Urban Development and Integrated Territorial Investments in England's Core Cities/Core City Regions which will operate across large urban densities. We expect this to result in a balanced and integrated territorial package.

⁶⁶ Department for Communities and Local Government - UK (2015a)

⁶⁷ Ibidem

⁶⁸ Department for Communities and Local Government - UK (2015b)

⁶⁹ Department for Communities and Local Government - UK (2015a)

4.4 CLLD in Scheveningen, The Hague

NETHERLANDS

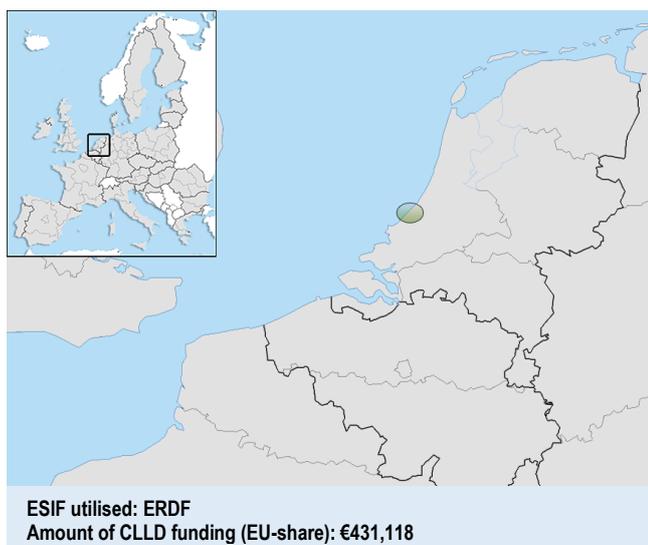
In The Hague, in the district of Scheveningen, CLLD will be implemented in one of the G-4 cities⁷⁰ for the first time during the 2014-2020 programming period. A distinctive feature of the CLLD approach applied in Scheveningen is that it is linked into The Hague's overall urban ITI strategy.⁷¹

Scheveningen was identified in The Hague's 2020 Structural Vision "Global City by the Sea" as an important strategic location. The further development of this district is therefore of central importance to the entire city. Scheveningen has identified its potential in

various areas. However, the realisation of this potential and the resulting positive economic development of Scheveningen, which is being striven for, are dependent on the involvement of local partners, especially businesses. They play an important role in this regard, as they generate income and create jobs in Scheveningen. To date, cooperation has not been sufficiently progressed between the businesses themselves, or between businesses and the local population. Added to this, the relationship between the local population and businesses and the local authorities has often been burdened by conflicts in the past. In the future, on one hand, close cooperation amongst the businesses is regarded as very important, for example, to jointly market Scheveningen as a tourist destination. On the other hand, close cooperation between businesses and the local population should also be pursued, in order to meet both the long-term objectives of the businesses and those of the local population in having an attractive and liveable environment.⁷²

As part of the 2014-2020 "Kansen voor West" (Opportunities for the West) operational programme, CLLD is prioritised under specific objective 7: "Realising increased strategic involvement of local stakeholders in drawing up local strategies". To implement the CLLD approach with regard to this specific objective, a total of €431,118 has been allocated from the ERDF.⁷³ In light of Scheveningen's challenges and potential, The Hague's overall urban ITI strategy in relation to this district is supported by a CLLD strategy.

The projects implemented as part of the CLLD strategy are aimed, amongst other things, at contributing towards an improved business climate, and enabling the creation of jobs. In general, cooperation between the local stakeholders will be improved by using the CLLD approach. The involvement of entrepreneurs, the local population and other local stakeholders in the development processes of the district should increase trust in and greater acceptance of the initiatives of the city authorities.⁷⁴



⁷⁰ The G-4 cities are the four biggest cities in The Netherlands - Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht.

⁷¹ Gemeente Rotterdam (2014)

⁷² Ibidem

⁷³ Ibidem

⁷⁴ Ibidem

The CLLD strategy will be implemented in line with the ITI strategy for sustainable urban development in The Hague. The Hague's urban advisory committee plays an important role here. In addition to evaluating the ITI strategy, this committee is also responsible for assessing the CLLD strategy. When reviewing the quality of the suggested projects, the advisory committee assesses the extent to which the CLLD strategy contributes towards achieving the objectives of the Kansen voor West operational programme. The city's programme authority is responsible for approving the CLLD strategy.⁷⁵



Ton Overmeire, Vincent Hillen

CLLD Programme Manager, ITI
Programme Manager, City of
The Hague

Photo: Vincent Holleman (City of The
Hague)

1. What benefits does The Hague (Scheveningen) hope to gain by implementing the CLLD approach?

The CLLD organisation's actions to be supported should contribute to an improved business climate and thereby increase the willingness to invest in Scheveningen and/or help boost unemployment in Scheveningen, especially for low-skilled workers. The actions to be supported will therefore also contribute to achieving the objectives for the other investment priorities laid down in The Hague's ITI strategy.

2. What are the particular characteristics and/or challenges related to the functioning and area of application of the CLLD approach that you use?

The Hague has opted to have its ITI strategy with respect to Scheveningen be supported by a CLLD strategy. In view of the city's interest in the development of Scheveningen, economic opportunities for entrepreneurs and the creation of new jobs (especially low-skilled jobs), it was decided that the CLLD strategy approach address the opportunities available in and the threats to the area from a three-theme perspective: the region as a seaside resort, the port economy, and the quality of the living environment.

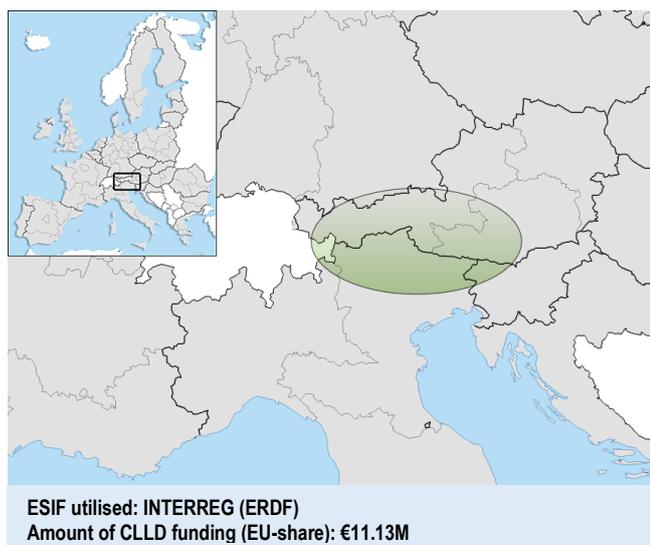
3. What contribution can the CLLD approach make towards implementation of the Territorial Agenda 2020 in your programme area?

Scheveningen has the potential to be a growth-driver for the city as a whole in a large number of fields: economically, by increasing employment; sports, by turning The Hague into the country's premier water sports city; culturally, by offering new cultural facilities; sustainability and the environment, by the implementation of new measures. These developments allow Scheveningen to make a significant contribution towards meeting the objectives of the "Kansen voor West" OP in general and those of the ITI, in which the CLLD approach is integrated, in particular. Through the consideration of the local potential and needs a contribution to the TA 2020 is made.

⁷⁵ Gemeente Rotterdam (2014)

4.5 Cross-border CLLD in Italy and Austria

A cross-border CLLD approach is being implemented as part of the Italy-Austria 2014-2020 INTERREG V Cooperation Programme. On the Italian side, the programme area incorporates the province of South Tyrol as well as several provinces in the regions of Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Veneto. On the Austrian side, it incorporates a number of districts in the Austrian federal states of Carinthia, Salzburg and Tyrol. The application of CLLD relates to the direct border regions of the programme area.⁷⁶



A challenge to the better integration of the cross-border areas of Italy and Austria is posed by the different legal and administrative systems in place. These significantly affect development in all aspects of daily life, particularly in the immediate border regions, and restrict the creation of structured, cross-border cooperation processes. In the 2007-2013 programming period, INTERREG councils were established in the programme area to strengthen cross-border cooperation structures. Through CLLD, the aim is that these established cooperation structures will be further developed at a local level during the 2014-2020 programming period. Helped by the CLLD approach, the expansion of the cross-border networks and also public-private partnerships is likely to be strengthened: this will cement the functional links between the local partners in the cooperation areas.⁷⁷ By means of CLLD, an agreed procedure for resolving cross-border problems and challenges can be supported.⁷⁸

Under the cooperation programme framework, CLLD is prioritised under priority axis 5: "Strengthening the cross-border integration to encourage local ownership in the direct border regions through integrated cross-border strategies in accordance with the CLLD approach, to stimulate innovative, sustainable and inclusive growth in the CLLD areas". Approximately €11.13M has been earmarked for the implementation of CLLD.⁷⁹ In the Italian part of the programme area, CLLD is being progressed as a mono-funded approach, while on the Austrian side it is being implemented through multi-funding. Hence, in Austria, only those local action groups that are also participating in the CLLD approach of the Austrian 2014-2020 EAFRD Programme can be involved.⁸⁰

The cooperation programme specifies a number of activities to be implemented as part of priority axis 5 (CLLD). Smaller projects can also be carried out within the development strategies. Depending on the thematic orientation of the development strategies, the key focus areas of these projects can be, for example, logistics services in the Alps and Alpine foothills, tourism, local produce or social issues, which contribute to economic development and strengthen the social fabric of the region. In addition, projects may be supported which aim to diversify the local economy in the border regions as part of the development

⁷⁶ Autonome Provinz Bozen - Südtirol (2014a)

⁷⁷ Ibidem

⁷⁸ Ibidem

⁷⁹ Autonome Provinz Bozen - Südtirol (2014b)

⁸⁰ Gemeinsames Sekretariat, Abteilung Europa, Amt für europäische Integration Bozen (2014)

strategies, such as measures in the areas linked to the Europe 2020 strategy. A further campaign aims, amongst other things, to strengthen networking and development work between the LAGs.⁸¹

The cross-border CLLD strategies developed by the partners⁸² seek to illustrate how sustainable, cross-border development can be driven by the cooperation of local action groups. In addition, the parties involved in a cross-border CLLD strategy must agree on whether or not there should be a lead partner for financial and administrative matters within their partnership, or if they should form a joint legal structure for such matters.⁸³

The selection of the CLLD areas takes place via a two-step process. Firstly, the CLLD development strategies submitted by the deadline are evaluated by the managing authorities and the joint secretariat, in conjunction with the relevant regional coordinating bodies, based on formal and qualitative criteria.⁸⁴ A final decision is then made by the monitoring committee, based on the same criteria. In terms of the cooperation programme, subsidies for a maximum of four CLLD areas are envisaged.⁸⁵



Dr. Peter Gamper
Managing authority
INTERREG V Italy-Austria
Photo: Dr. Peter Gamper (Managing Authority)

1. What benefits does the Italy-Austria programme area hope to gain by implementing the cross-border CLLD approach as part of the INTERREG IV Cooperation Programme Italy-Austria 2014-2020?

In our immediate border regions, the local population has already successfully implemented joint initiatives through the so-called INTERREG councils. With the CLLD approach, we are aiming to further expand this participatory approach at cross-border level. The goal is to support the existing efforts towards joint cross-border activities. The delegation of important regional political decisions to a local level can lead to increased commitment on the part of the directly-affected population, and also simplify administrative processes.

2. What are the particular characteristics and/or challenges related to the functioning and area of application of the CLLD approach that you use?

The local actors combine their efforts by forming joint cross-border local action groups. The bottom-up development strategies are aligned with the cooperation programme, and also with the two existing EGTCs in the programme area, i.e., the “Tyrol–South Tyrol–Trentino European Region” and the “Alps-Adriatic Euregio Alliance”. In particular, the so-called small projects of up to €50,000 provide everyday opportunities for contact and exchange between people, and help to overcome difficulties relating to different administrative and legal systems.

3. What contribution can the CLLD approach make towards implementation of the Territorial Agenda 2020 in your programme area?

The main focus of the Territorial Agenda 2020 is the balanced development of homogeneous areas and the reduction of economic imbalances in these regions. This can only be achieved if different instruments are combined, if the specific needs of the local population are better addressed, and if adequate opportunities for cooperation are created between areas facing similar challenges. We try to meet these requirements in our border regions by using the CLLD approach.

⁸¹ Autonome Provinz Bozen – Südtirol (2014a)

⁸² The target group includes local partners from the public and private sector as well as from civil society.

⁸³ Gemeinsames Sekretariat, Abteilung Europa, Amt für europäische Integration Bozen (2014)

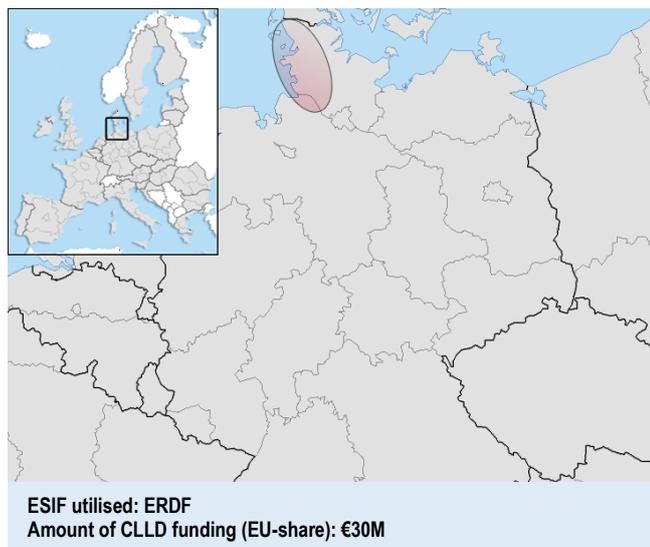
⁸⁴ The criteria take elements like the size of the CLLD area, the population, the development status, the quality of the strategy and the regional political requirements into consideration.

⁸⁵ Gemeinsames Sekretariat, Abteilung Europa, Amt für europäische Integration Bozen (2014)

4.6 ITI “West Coast: Competence Region for Tourism and Energy“, Schleswig-Holstein

GERMANY

In Schleswig-Holstein, the development of the west coast of the state is being supported through the ITI approach. The ITI area incorporates the districts of Dithmarschen, Nordfriesland (North Frisia) and Steinburg, as well as the deep-sea island of Heligoland.⁸⁶ For the purposes of the cooperation projects, the projects supported under the ITI framework can also be expanded to include the districts of Pinneberg and Schleswig-Flensburg, as well as the city of Flensburg.⁸⁷



In relation to the German economic area as a whole, the west coast of Schleswig-Holstein is a peripheral region with obstacles to development such as poorer links to transport networks, a disproportionately high reliance on agriculture and tourism (with their different development perspectives) and a lack of innovative capacity. In the period between 2009 and 2012, the region suffered from a significant population decline: academics and specialists, amongst others, left the region because of a lack of attractive job opportunities.⁸⁸ As a result, Schleswig-Holstein launched the so-called West Coast Initiative in 2012 to promote development there, focussing on the themes of transport, renewable energy, tourism, demographics and highly-skilled workers, and the designation of Brunsbüttel as a special location for industry. In the coming years, the West Coast Initiative will be primarily supported by the ITI instrument. The “West Coast Competence Region for Tourism and Energy” ITI (West Coast ITI) aims to improve its existing location factors, support the (further) development of new potential on the west coast of Schleswig-Holstein, and achieve continuous improvement of regional networks.

The ITI approach in Schleswig-Holstein is being subsidised through ERDF funds. ITI funding from the Schleswig-Holstein ERDF in the 2014 to 2020 programming period amounts to €30M in total. This corresponds to around 11% of the funding from the Schleswig-Holstein ERDF programme. In terms of the ERDF programme, thematic objective 4 will receive a total of €10M, and thematic objective 6⁸⁹ €20 M.⁹⁰

Under the ITI West Coast framework, the areas of “Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency” (thematic objective 4) and “Resource-saving Tourism” (thematic objective 6) are highlighted as key themes. Through the ITI, a clear competence profile will be developed for the west coast of Schleswig-Holstein. In the area of offshore wind energy, for example, the region can particularly profit from the development of the offshore wind industry through its harbours and the deep-sea island of Heligoland. Today, the tourism industry is already an important sector and significant employer for large parts of the west coast region.⁹¹

⁸⁶ Heligoland is part of the administrative district of Pinneberg.

⁸⁷ Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Arbeit, Verkehr und Technologie des Landes Schleswig Holstein (2014a)

⁸⁸ Ibidem

⁸⁹ Thematic objective “Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors”; thematic objective 6 “Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency”

⁹⁰ Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Arbeit, Verkehr und Technologie des Landes Schleswig Holstein (2014a)

⁹¹ Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Arbeit, Verkehr und Technologie des Landes Schleswig Holstein (2014a)

As part of the ITI process, the specific topics for the future of the west coast are identified by the partners⁹² in the region. They submit their project ideas via a two-step competition process. For this purpose, there are a number of calls for project submissions. In the first phase, the regional partners are invited to submit a concept with a draft project plan as the basis of their application. The competition entries are then evaluated and selected by an ITI committee. In the second phase, the selected concepts are developed further, and the draft project plans are developed into detailed project descriptions. The deliverable concepts are then evaluated by the ITI committee based on a catalogue of criteria, and some or all of the projects relevant to ERDF are selected from the respective concepts. The selected projects are entitled to apply for project subsidies from the ERDF as part of the West Coast ITI, but this does not, however, automatically entitle the projects to receive funding.⁹³ The competition is organised by a central body in the region. This body has the task of encouraging participation in the West Coast ITI, supporting the development of concepts, and providing advice during the competition process.⁹⁴



Rüdiger Balduhn
Regional and structural policy; ERDF, "Joint Task for the Improvement of Regional Economic Structures" (GRW), EU affairs (MWAVT)
Photo: MWAVT

1. What benefits does Schleswig-Holstein hope to gain by implementing the ITI approach?

The ITI approach covers the west coast of Schleswig-Holstein. With a view to its structural weakness and peripheral location, the existing location factors need to be improved, the development of new potential supported, and future-orientated, sustainably effective location factors strengthened. The regional partners should take on an active role in this regard, through the two-step competition process. Concepts and project suggestions for regional development should be devised which will make a lasting contribution to improving the competitiveness of the west coast.

2. What are the particular characteristics and/or challenges related to the functioning and area of application of the ITI approach that you use?

Concepts and project suggestions which address the key themes of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and Resource-saving Tourism are eligible for inclusion in integrated territorial development concepts. An understanding of the underlying strategic approach is also necessary for each competition entry. The competition entries submitted are selected by a committee of experts

who represent the state government, business and social partners, as well as non-governmental organisations. This ensures direct involvement by the region.

3. What contribution can the ITI approach make towards implementation of the Territorial Agenda 2020 in your programme area?

The ITI approach in Schleswig-Holstein will primarily contribute to the following TA 2020 priorities:

1. Balanced territorial development,
2. Integrated development in rural regions,
3. Improving territorial cohesion.

⁹² The target groups for the competition are all the regional partners on the west coast from business, science, society and administration based in Schleswig-Holstein (for example, local authorities, enterprises, universities, associations, etc.).

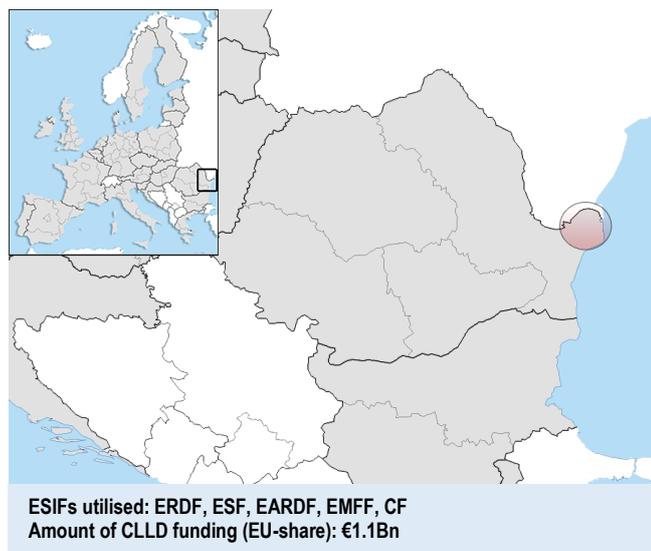
⁹³ Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Arbeit, Verkehr und Technologie des Landes Schleswig Holstein (2014a)

⁹⁴ Ibidem

4.7 ITI in the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve

ROMANIA

In Romania the ITI approach is being implemented across the whole of the Danube Delta (DD) biosphere reserve, a conservation area in a rural region. The ITI area includes the estuary region of the Danube into the Black Sea. It primarily includes regions in a peripheral location with a low level of economic activity, as well as a few urban areas.⁹⁵



From a geographical classification perspective, the DD biosphere reserve is the largest wetland area in Europe with ecologically-sensitive areas. With respect to demographic and economic development, the area is characterised by a declining population and a low level of economic activity. The population's access to basic social and economic services is limited. The overall economic profile of the biosphere reserve is primarily shaped by tourism, fishing and agriculture. The urban centres of the DD region represent important areas in the industrial and service sectors. There are various nature conservation zones in the biosphere reserve, including areas in which no economic activities are allowed, or buffer zones between economic areas in which tourist activities are allowed, so long as the environment is adequately protected. As a result, conservation of the natural assets and improvement of the quality of life of the local population represent a dual challenge for sustainable development in the DD. In order to tackle these challenges, an integrated development strategy to support sustainable development through the ITI approach in the DD region has been formulated.⁹⁶

In Romania a multi-funded approach is being used for the implementation of ITI in the DD biosphere reserve. ITI funding from all five ESIFs has been made available. In total, an amount of just over €1 Bn has been earmarked for the implementation of the ITI strategy (ERDF €709.62M, ESF €76M, EAFRD €168M, EMFF €50M, CF €107.64M)⁹⁷. The strategic coordination of the ESIF in the framework of the adopted ITI approach takes place through a steering committee, which is responsible for managing the partnership agreement.⁹⁸

A special cooperation structure is planned for strategically managing the implementation of the ITI strategy in the DD biosphere reserve. Representatives of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration (MDRAP), the Ministry of European Funds (MEF) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development form an ITI working group which aims to ensure effective coordination between all partners involved in the implementation of the ITI strategy. The MEF will establish a permanent secretariat as a central point of contact for all partners involved. In addition, the ministries responsible for coordinating and administering the ESIF have established a partnership for inter-agency cooperation for the Danube Delta ITI, by

⁹⁵ Ministerul Dezvoltării Regionale și Administrației Publice (2014b)

⁹⁶ Ministerul Dezvoltării Regionale și Administrației Publice (2014a)

⁹⁷ An indicative allocation of funds from the individual ESIF has already taken place. The final allocation of the ITI funding from the individual ESIF will be made as part of the finalisation of the Danube Delta strategy.

⁹⁸ Ministerul Dezvoltării Regionale și Administrației Publice (2014b)

founding a joint development corporation which will prioritise the projects relevant to the ITI strategy, and play an important role in involving the local beneficiaries and supporting the further development of the projects.⁹⁹

The implementation of the ITI approach should contribute to the specific thematic priorities relating to the above-mentioned challenges facing the DD biosphere reserve. These thematic priorities include the development of sustainable economic development with access to markets, infrastructure and skilled workers, as well as the further development of nature-related tourism. Commercial fishing will be retained and recreational fishing expanded, agriculture will remain an option as a full-time career. Efforts will also be made to ensure that access to various services and the local standard of living is improved. Better chances for making a career in environmental protection will be linked to wider strategies for improved economic development opportunities. All these objectives will be supported by improved administrative structures in the Danube Delta biosphere reserve.¹⁰⁰



Diana Tenea

General Director for Regional
Development and Infrastructure
(MDRAP)

Photo: Diana Tenea (MDRAP)

1. What are the benefits of implementing the ITI approach in the Danube Delta biosphere reserve in Romania?

ITI will use the place-based approach, stimulating integrated development and the cross-sectorial cooperation at a sub-regional level, thus leading to synergies between ESI Funds and other financing sources, such as national or local budgets, and avoiding the funding of divergent or disparate projects. ITI has the potential to lead to a better aggregate outcome for the same amount of public investment. The benefits for the Danube Delta area can be: better integration through allocated financing at the outset, empowered local actors and potentially better outcomes.

2. What are the particular characteristics and/or challenges related to the functioning and area of application of the ITI approach that you use?

ITI can only be effectively used on the basis of the cross-sectoral territorial strategy, if the local stakeholders like public authorities, universities, non-profit organizations, and private firms will pursue joint initiatives and projects with benefits beyond a single local jurisdiction. This will allow formulating integrated responses to diverse territorial needs, without losing a thematic focus. Romania will use the ITI instrument in the Danube Delta area, a unique territory with very specific features: a sparse and isolated population, economic specialization and vulnerability and poor access to services.

3. What contribution can the ITI approach make towards implementation of the Territorial Agenda 2020 in your programme area?

ITI facilitates the implementation of complex projects in order to stimulate integrated territorial development and participates to the achievement of all the development priorities within the Territorial Agenda 2020. By implementing ITI, a stronger local economy will be built, enhancing the regional and global competitiveness of the Danube Delta. The ITI-projects will facilitate the improvement of the territorial connectivity of local actors and will encourage the integrated development of rural and urban communities. The specific unique features of the landscape and cultural heritage will be capitalized in order to provide long-term sustainable development, protecting also the ecological systems.

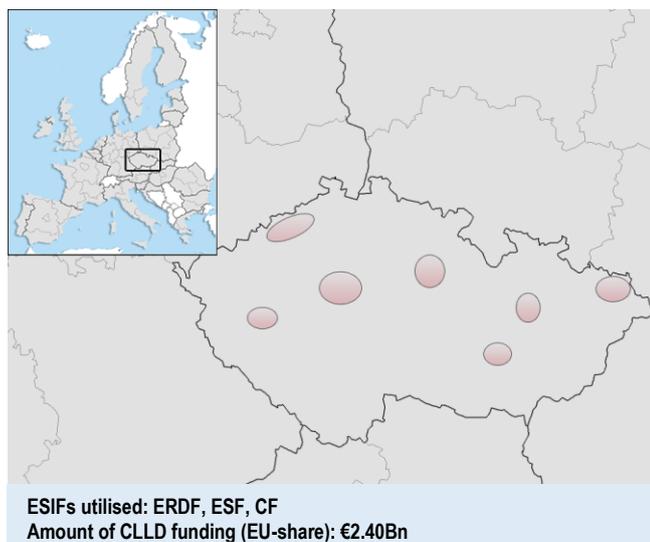
⁹⁹ Ministerul Dezvoltării Regionale și Administrației Publice (2014b)

¹⁰⁰ Ibidem

4.8 ITI in Metropolitan Regions and Conurbations

CZECH REPUBLIC

In the Czech Republic, the ITI approach is being implemented in the four biggest metropolitan regions and three conurbations. More than 300,000 residents live in each of these ITI areas. The metropolitan regions comprise the functionally-defined agglomerations of the capital Prague, Brno, Ostrava, and Plzeň, including their urban hinterlands. The three conurbations in which ITI is being implemented are Ústí-Chomutov, Olomouc and Hradec Králové-Pardubice.¹⁰¹ More than 45% of the Czech population live in these areas, which generate more than 55% of the national gross domestic product. The ITI approach is aimed at contributing to further dynamic development in the metropolitan regions and conurbations. Hence, the greatest challenge lies in tackling the specific problems and needs of the ITI areas, while at the same time fulfilling the objectives of the relevant operational programmes.¹⁰²



A multi-funded approach is used for the implementation of ITI in the Czech Republic. For this purpose, EU subsidies from the ERDF (€1.48Bn), the ESF (€148M) and the CF (€778M) have been made available.¹⁰³ In the 2014-2020 programming period a total of €2.4Bn has been made available for the ITI approach. In addition to funding from the Integrated Regional Operational Programme (IROP), other operational programmes¹⁰⁴ provide ITI financing.¹⁰⁵ ITI is used as an instrument for implementing integrated strategies, to enable the coordination of mutually-linked and geographically-targeted measures on different priority axes through one or more programmes of the specified ESIF. Through the IROP, ITI is being implemented on the basis of sustainable urban development. For the purpose of implementing measures relating to sustainable urban development, including funds for ITI and integrated territorial development plans, the IROP has a budget of €942.25M¹⁰⁶.

Coordination of the funds and operational programmes is ensured by the permanent national conference within the framework of the territorial area where ITI is being implemented. Its tasks include monitoring the use of EU funding from the various priorities of the different operational programmes for delivering the ITI strategies.

¹⁰¹ Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj ČR (2014a)

¹⁰² Ibidem

¹⁰³ Ibidem

¹⁰⁴ OP Enterprise and Innovation for Competitiveness (ERDF), OP Employment (ESF/Youth Employment Initiative), OP Research, Development and Education (ESF/ERDF), OP Transport (CF/ERDF), OP Prague - Growth Pole of the Czech Republic (ESF/ERDF), OP Environment (CF/ERDF).

¹⁰⁵ Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj ČR (2014a)

¹⁰⁶ Ibidem

In the metropolitan regions and conurbations, specific, appropriate core topics must be taken into consideration in the ITI strategies. The most important of these include transport, education and the job market, cooperation on research projects, the practical implementation of research results, innovation, environmental issues, technical infrastructure and public services. With the ITI strategies, investments are focussed primarily on realising larger strategic projects that impact significantly on the areas they cover. However, to complement this approach, smaller projects are also subsidised in order to achieve the desired level of synergy.¹⁰⁷

The selection of the ITI strategies takes place through a staged process. Firstly, the strategies submitted are checked for formal completeness and relevance by the Department of Regional Policy at the Ministry of Regional Development. The relevant managing authorities then assess whether the ITI strategy follows the objectives and focus of the individual operational programmes, and meets other relevant conditions. If these conditions are met, the managing authorities confirm their acceptance of the strategy. Based on this approval, an agreement is then concluded on the delivery of the strategy.¹⁰⁸ Responsibility for the final selection of ITI projects lies with an intermediate body at the level of the ERDF funding organisation, or with the managing authorities for the ESF and CF. The organisation funding the strategy is involved in determining the criteria for evaluating project quality. In addition, it assesses how well the projects comply with the ITI strategy, advises applicants and beneficiaries, and is also involved in monitoring and evaluating the ITI strategy itself.¹⁰⁹



David Koppitz
Director for Regional
Policy (MMR)
Photo: MMR

1. What benefits does the Czech Republic hope to gain by implementing the ITI approach in metropolitan regions?

The precondition for using ITI is to develop integrated territorial strategies leading to strategic integrated projects. The whole process is based on partnership and covers areas composed of a number of municipalities. This is very innovative in the Czech context. The same benefit applies for the ITI implementation. The interventions have to focus mainly on larger, strategic projects that have a significant impact on the areas concerned. Smaller projects will also be supported. They should properly complement larger projects and create synergies. ITI brings a new quality to strategic thinking on local, regional and national levels.

2. What are the particular characteristics and/or challenges related to the functioning and area of application of the ITI approach that you use?

Challenges can be seen in various aspects on both the local and national levels, for example: how to force cities and municipalities in Functional Urban Areas to integrate a wide range of activities, how to create a functioning and representative partnership that includes the relevant stakeholders, how to achieve the desired consensus on the priorities and key interventions, how to implement integrated projects of a high quality and fulfilling the indicators set out in the relevant OPs to support the ITIs. Challenging is also the legal set-up which is new to the Czech Republic. Cities become intermediate bodies and bear responsibility for their decisions.

3. What contribution can the ITI approach make towards implementation of the Territorial Agenda 2020 in your programme area?

The Czech Republic has decided to implement ITI across several Operational Programmes, the main source of funding represents the Integrated Regional Operational Programme. The contribution to the TA 2020 is seen in fostering the development of the growth poles that should contribute to the economic growth of the whole territory. The main themes linking the core cities of agglomerations to their functional hinterlands include transportation, the labour market, linking research to practice, innovation and entrepreneurship, and the environment, including the technical infrastructure.

¹⁰⁷ Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj ČR (2014b)

¹⁰⁸ Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj ČR (2014a)

¹⁰⁹ Ibidem

4.9 ITI in Flanders

BELGIUM

In Flanders the ITI approach is implemented in functional areas, i.e., in two provinces and one region. The three ITI areas are the provinces of Limburg and West Flanders plus the Kempen region in the province of Antwerp.¹¹⁰

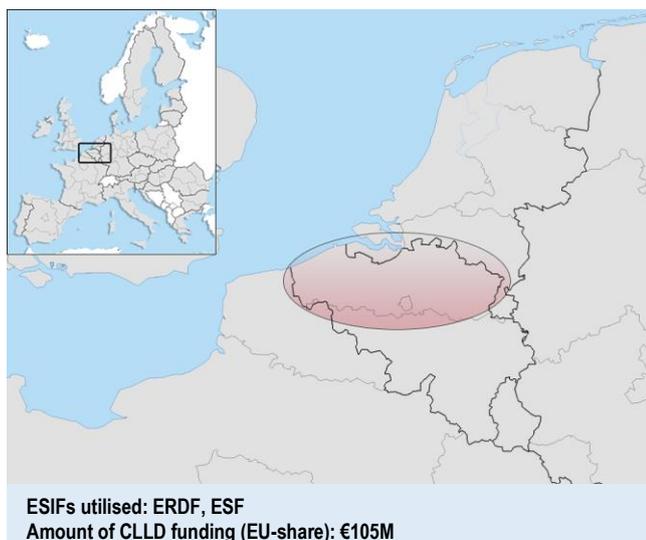
All three ITI areas are characterised by similar problems and challenges. The economic development in these areas is characterised by structural change, particularly with regard to industry. The structural weaknesses are the cause of a relatively low gross domestic product and a lack of jobs. As such, in the ITI area of Limburg, for example, there are significant

restructuring problems caused by the closure of a major car production plant. The whole ITI area of West Flanders is characterised by a low rate of business start-ups, a lack of foreign investment, an ageing logistics infrastructure and a lack of skilled workers. Also, in the Kempen ITI area, closures and liquidations of industrial businesses have hampered economic development.¹¹¹

To tackle these economic challenges, territorial action plans are already in place that are tailored to the respective needs of the provinces and region that comprise the ITI areas. In the province of Limburg, the “Strategic Action Plan for Limburg Squared” (SALK) was developed as an overall vision for the province. With the “Kempen Dynamic Action Plan” (DYNAK), the region of Kempen follows a strategy of targeted priorities. In West Flanders, the “West Deal” strategic action plan aims to achieve a sustainable, structural economic transformation for the province. The implementation of ITI in the three areas is therefore closely linked to these above-mentioned action plans. As such, for example, the measures envisaged in the “West Deal” strategic plan can be delivered within the West Flanders ITI framework.¹¹²

A multi-funded approach is used for the implementation of ITI in Flanders. Funding from the ERDF and ESF has been made available for the three ITI areas. The Limburg ITI includes €45.2M from the ERDF and €26.7M from the ESF. West Flanders will receive €20.9M from the ERDF and €2.8M the ESF for its ITI strategy. For the Kempen ITI, subsidies of €9.5M from the ERDF and €300,000 from the ESF have been earmarked.¹¹³

As a result of the close links between the above-mentioned action plans and the approaches of the three ITIs, the action plans and the ITI strategies in the affected areas are pursuing the same goals. As such, the primary goals of the Limburg ITI strategy are the stabilisation of the local economic base and the creation of jobs. Key areas of focus for the ITI strategy in West Flanders are supporting business start-ups, encouraging innovation in key sectors and expanding the centres of excellence. In the region of Kempen, the ITI strategy aims to assist in creating a new basis for economic growth, which should also bring an



¹¹⁰ Vlaamse Beheersautoriteit Europese Structuurfondsen - Agentschap Ondernemen, Afdeling Europa Economie (2014)

¹¹¹ Ibidem

¹¹² Ibidem

¹¹³ Ibidem

increase in employment.¹¹⁴ The goals of Limburg, Kempen and West Flanders form the interface between the ERDF programme (supporting entrepreneurship) and the ESF programme (strengthening human resources).

The implementation and administration of the ITI strategies is jointly managed by the ERDF and ESF managing authorities. Their tasks include supporting the preparation and implementation of the strategy, as well as monitoring its delivery.¹¹⁵

In the ITI areas, monitoring committees make the final decision on funding individual ITI projects. Coordination between the ERDF and ESF takes place through the ongoing cooperation of the managing authorities, and an annual coordination meeting of all the partners involved.¹¹⁶



Marc De Frenne
Director Agentschap Ondernemen (Entiteit Europa Economie - EFRO)
Photo: Agentschap Ondernemen

1. What benefits does Flanders (Belgium) hope to gain by implementing the ITI approach?

As the ITI instrument is a new element in cohesion policy, the real impact is difficult to determine. ITI represents an important part of the budget of the ERDF programme which covers the whole area of Flanders. The use of ITI allows the combination of actions on a wide-Flemish scale, along with targeted development strategies for some sub-regional areas with specific socio-economic problems. Potential benefits include the stronger involvement of local authorities in their implementation and the flexibility to tackle specific needs and fully exploit the development potential of the sub-regions.

2. What are the particular characteristics and/or challenges related to the functioning and area of application of the ITI approach that you use?

Flanders has selected 3 ITIs on economic and political grounds, targeting sub-regional areas which are facing structural economic challenges of industrial modernization. They represent a large part of the ERDF-budget (43 %, together with limited ESF-funding) and have a broad thematic focus covering innovation, competitiveness and a low carbon economy. Their introduction presented important challenges of establishing structures and implementation mechanisms that satisfy local actors' expectations and also adhere to regulatory requirements and programme objectives.

3. What contribution can the ITI approach make towards implementation of the Territorial Agenda 2020 in your programme area?

The use of ITI, in combination with the objective of sustainable urban development as one of the priority axes in the Flemish ERDF 2014-2020 OP, is strengthening the integrated territorial approach in implementing the cohesion policy and is thus facilitating the implementation of the Territorial Agenda 2020. Within the framework of selecting concrete actions, specific regional and territorial characteristics will also be taken into account, contributing to territorial cohesion and strengthening the position of Flanders in the network of European cities and regions.

¹¹⁴Secrétariat général Département de la Coordination des Fonds structurels (2014)

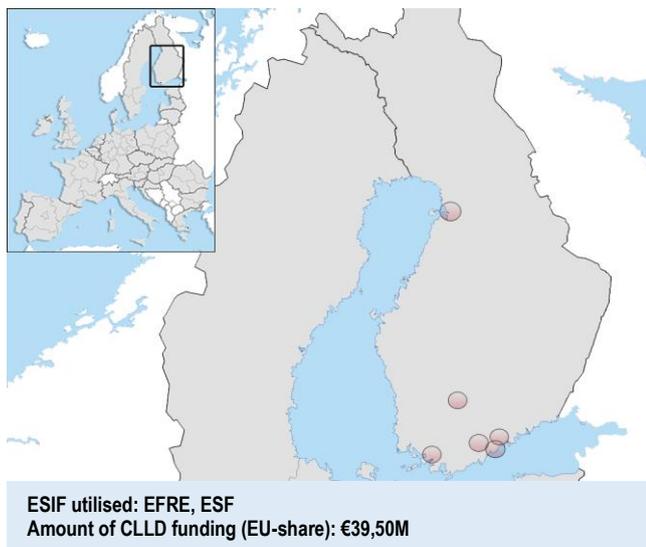
¹¹⁵ Vlaamse Beheersautoriteit Europese Structuurfondsen - Agentschap Ondernemen, Afdeling Europa Economie (2014)

¹¹⁶ Secrétariat général Département de la Coordination des Fonds structurels (2014)

4.10 ITI in Large Cities

FINLAND

In Finland the ITI approach is being implemented in the six biggest cities in the country (Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa, Oulu, Tampere, and Turku). They are home to around 30 % of the Finnish population. These cities are centres of research, development and innovation, and are characterised by similar basic conditions.¹¹⁷ The development of improved services or the boosting of competitiveness are common challenges facing these cities. In order to tackle these challenges, they are striving to develop a culture of innovation, which aims to support the required changes and also the greater inclusion of the local population, through new and transparent methods.¹¹⁸



In light of these basic conditions, the six biggest cities in Finland have developed a joint ITI strategy, “Transparent and Intelligent Services”, based on the principles of sustainable urban development. For the ITI strategy, almost €39.5M has been made available in terms of ERDF priority “Producing and using the latest knowledge and skills”. In addition, ESF measures relating to priorities 3 to 5¹¹⁹ can be subsidised within the framework of the ITI strategy. With ESF funding there is no top-slicing of monies for a specific purpose. Rather, the regions themselves propose the amount of the subsidies from the ESF which should be used for the implementation of the strategy.¹²⁰

The primary goal of the ITI strategy is to boost the competitiveness of Finland by using the six biggest cities as developmental and pilot environments for new innovations. Service innovations, the competitiveness of businesses, and job creation will all be supported. For this purpose, the ITI strategy framework focuses on three priorities: transparent innovation platforms, transparent knowledge and interfaces, plus transparent inclusion. The innovation platforms are used to develop and test new services and products under real-world conditions (for example, with the involvement of the local population).¹²¹

The cities involved have formed a leadership group for implementing the ITI strategy, which has representation from every city. The leadership group is the final decision-making body, and is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the ITI strategy, together with the programme administrators. In addition, a steering group was established, comprising representatives from the cities, external experts and representatives of the ministries involved. The steering group prepares suggestions for projects to be implemented as part of the ITI strategy. The leadership group selects which ERDF projects will be carried out, in an open and

¹¹⁷ Forum Virium Helsinki (2015)

¹¹⁸ Ministry of Employment and the Economy - Finland (2014b)

¹¹⁹ Priority 3: Employment and labour mobility, Priority 4: Education, skills and lifelong learning, Priority 5: Social inclusion and combating poverty.

¹²⁰ Ministry of Employment and the Economy - Finland (2014b)

¹²¹ Ibidem

transparent process (after considering their suitability for the intended purpose). The programme administrators then decide on the final amount of grant to be awarded.¹²²



Olli Voutilainen

Senior Officer (Työ- ja
elinkeinoministeriön)

Photo: Työ- ja elinkeinomi-
nisteriön

1. What benefits does Finland hope to gain by implementing the ITI approach in the six largest cities in Finland?

The interplay between ERDF and ESF should work better than before. Moreover, the integrated urban development should work a little bit better due to ITI. However, ITI is just one step in this direction and a better integration of the funds is needed. ITI builds on the idea of a real place-based approach.

2. What are the particular characteristics and/or challenges related to the functioning and area of application of the ITI approach that you use?

From a functional point of view, the Finnish ITI means a joint strategy between the six biggest cities in the country. This is an achievement in itself, though collaboration always means challenges too. The field of application of the joint ITI strategy includes open innovation platforms, utilisation of open data as well as citizens' open participation and customership.

3. What contribution can the ITI approach make towards implementation of the Territorial Agenda 2020 in your programme area?

ITI creates a new step for a place-based approach in urban development policies. Joint ITI between the cities also makes the networks between the cities stronger.

¹²² Ministry of Employment and the Economy - Finland (2014a)

5 Bibliography

Autonome Provinz Bozen - Südtirol (ed.) (2014a): Kooperationsprogramm INTERREG V Italien-Österreich 2014-2020 - Entwurf. Status: 4 September 2014. Available online at <http://www.interreg.net/de/797.asp>, latest review on 19.08.2015

Autonome Provinz Bozen - Südtirol (ed.) (2014b): Thematische Konzentration. Available online at <http://www.interreg.net/de/809.asp>, last updated on 10.11.2014, latest review on 21.08.2015

Bayrisches Staatsministerium für Arbeit und Soziales, Familie und Integration (ed.) (2014): Europäischer Sozialfonds Operationelles Programm Bayern 2014-2020. Status: 18 September 2014. Available online at http://www.stmas.bayern.de/imperia/md/content/stmas/stmas_internet/esf/esf-op_2014-2020.pdf, latest review on 09.03.2015

Bayrisches Staatsministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten (ed.) (2015): Entwicklungsprogramm für den Ländlichen Raum 2014-2020 Bayern. Status: 13 February 2015. Available online at http://www.stmelf.bayern.de/mam/cms01/agrarpolitik/dateien/programme_2014de06rdrp004_1_0_de.pdf, latest review on 25.02.2015

Bayrisches Staatsministerium für Wirtschaft und Medien, Energie und Technologie (ed.) (2014): Operationelles Programm des EFRE im Ziel „Investitionen in Wachstum und Beschäftigung“ Bayern 2014-2020. Status: Version 1.3. Available online at http://www.efre-bayern.de/fileadmin/user_upload/efre/themen/IWB/Programmdokumente/Programme_2014DE16RFOP002_1_3_de.pdf, latest review on 10.03.2015

Behörde für Arbeit, Soziales, Familie und Integration (ed.) (2014): Operationelles Programm der Freien und Hansestadt Hamburg zur Umsetzung des Europäischen Sozialfonds in der Förderperiode 2014-2020. Status: September 2014. Available online at <http://www.esf-hamburg.de/contentblob/4394282/data/operationelles-programm-fuer-hamburg-2014-2020.pdf>, latest review on 09.03.2015

Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft (ed.) (2014): Europäischer Meeres- und Fischereifonds - Operationelles Programm für Deutschland. Status: Not specified. Available online at http://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/Landwirtschaft/EU-Fischereipolitik-Meeresschutz/OperationellesProgramm.pdf?__blob=publicationFile, latest review on 10.09.2015.

Behörde für Wirtschaft, Verkehr und Innovation (ed.) (2014): OP Hamburg EFRE 2014-2020. Status: Version 1.3. Available online at <http://www.hamburg.de/contentblob/4272348/data/operationelles-programm-hamburg-efre.pdf>, latest review on 04.03.2015

Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie (ed.) (2014): Partnerschaftsvereinbarung zwischen Deutschland und der Europäischen Kommission für die Umsetzung der ESI-Fonds unter dem Gemeinsamen Strategischen Rahmen in der Förderperiode 2014 bis 2020. Status: 15 September 2014. Available online at <http://www.bmwi.de/DE/Themen/Europa/Strukturfonds/foerderperiode-2014-2020.html>, latest review on 23.02.2015

Commissariat général à l'égalité des territoires (ed.) (2014): Accord de partenariat 2014-2020. Status: 8 August 2014. Available online at http://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/content/download/27819/257169/file/140808-AP_FRANCE_version_adoptee3.pdf, latest review on 24.10.2014

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (ed.) (2014): United Kingdom Partnership Agreement. Status: 15 October 2014. Available online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/european-structural-and-investment-funds-uk-partnership-agreement> latest review on 10.08.2015

Department for Communities and Local Government - United Kingdom (ed.) (2015a): European Regional Development Fund: England Operational Programme - 2014 to 2020. Status: July 2015. Available online at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/453888/England_ERDF_operational_programme_FINAL_140815.pdf, latest review on 10.08.2015

Department for Communities and Local Government - United Kingdom (ed.) (2015b): European Regional Development Fund: England Operational Programme - 2014 to 2020; Executive Summary. Status: July 2015. Available online at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/441622/ERDF_OP_Executive_Summary_FINAL_030715.pdf, latest review on 10.08.2015

Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (ed.) (2014): Partnership Agreement Ireland 2014-2020. Status: November 2014. Available online at <http://per.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/Partnership-Agreement-Ireland-2014-2020.pdf>, latest review on 20.02.2015

Department of Work and Pensions - United Kingdom (ed.) (2014): European Social Fund: Operational Programme 2014-2020 (England). Status: September 2014. Available online at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/354912/esf-operational-programme-2014-2020-draft.pdf, latest review on 10.08.2015

Der Senator für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Häfen Abteilung Arbeit (ed.) (2014): Operationelles Programm des Landes Bremen für den Europäischen Sozialfonds (ESF) in der Förderperiode 2014-2020. Status: Version 1.2. Available online at <http://www.esf.bremen.de/sixcms/detail.php?gsid=bremen113.c.8828.de>, latest review on 09.03.2015

Diartimento per lo Sviluppo la Coesione Economia (ed.) (2014): Accordo di partenariato 2014-2020 Italia. Status: September 2014. Available online at <http://www.dps.gov.it/it/AccordoPartenariato/>, latest review on 29.10.2014

Erhvervsstyrelsen Regional Udvikling Danmark (ed.) (2014): Partnerskabsaftale mellem Danmark og EU-Kommissionen vedrørende de europæiske struktur- og investeringsfonde 2014-2020. Status: 28 February 2014. Available online at http://ec.europa.eu/contracts_grants/pa/partnership-agreement-denmark_da.pdf, latest review on 22.10.2014

Europäische Kommission (ed.) (2013a): VERORDNUNG (EU) Nr. 1301/2013 DES EUROPÄISCHEN PARLAMENTS UND DES RATES vom 17. Dezember 2013 über den Europäischen Fonds für regionale Entwicklung und mit besonderen Bestimmungen hinsichtlich des Ziels „Investitionen in Wachstum und Beschäftigung“ und zur Aufhebung der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 1080/2006. Available online at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013R1301&from=DE>, latest review on 21.08.2015.

Europäische Kommission (ed.) (2013b): VERORDNUNG (EU) Nr. 1305/2013 DES EUROPÄISCHEN PARLAMENTS UND DES RATES vom 17. Dezember 2013 über die Förderung der ländlichen Entwicklung durch den Europäischen Landwirtschaftsfonds für die Entwicklung des ländlichen Raums (ELER) und zur Aufhebung der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 1698/2005. Available online at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:347:0487:0548:de:PDF>, latest review on 21.08.2015.

Europäische Kommission (ed.) (2013c): VERORDNUNG (EU) Nr. 1303/2013 DES EUROPÄISCHEN PARLAMENTS UND DES RATES vom 17. Dezember 2013 mit gemeinsamen Bestimmungen über den Europäischen Fonds für regionale Entwicklung, den Europäischen Sozialfonds, den Kohäsionsfonds, den Europäischen Landwirtschaftsfonds für die Entwicklung des ländlichen Raums und den Europäischen Meeres- und Fischereifonds sowie mit allgemeinen Bestimmungen über den Europäischen Fonds für regionale Entwicklung, den Europäischen Sozialfonds, den Kohäsionsfonds und den Europäischen Meeres- und Fischereifonds und zur Aufhebung der Verordnung (EG) Nr. 1083/2006 des Rates. Available online at http://www.esf.de/portal/SharedDocs/PDFs/DE/Verordnungen/verordnung_1303_2013.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=7, latest review on 21.08.2015.

Europäische Union (ed.) (2011): Territoriale Agenda der Europäischen Union 2020 - Für ein integratives, intelligentes und nachhaltiges Europa der vielfältigen Regionen. Status: 19 May 2011. Available online at https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/DE/Anlage/StadtUndLand/territoriale-agenda-der-europaeischen-union-2020-ohne-bilder.pdf?__blob=publicationFile., latest review on 16.03.2015

Forum Virium Helsinki (ed.) (2015): The Six City Strategy – Open and Smart Services. Available online at <http://6aika.fi/in-english/>, latest review on 14.09.2015.

Gemeente Rotterdam (ed.) (2014): Kansen voor West 2014-2020 Operational Programme. Status: 24 November 2014. Unter Mitarbeit von Gemeente Amsterdam, Gemeente Den Haag, Gemeente Utrecht, Provincie Noord-Holland, Provincie Zuid-Holland, Provincie Flevoland und Provincie Utrecht. Available online at <http://www.kansenvoorwest2.nl/files/operational-programme-kansen-voor-west-engelse-versie.pdf>., latest review on 20.08.2015

Gemeinsame Verwaltungsbehörde für den EFRE, den ESF und den ELER des Landes Mecklenburg Vorpommern (ed.) (2015): Entwicklungsprogramm für den Ländlichen Raum 2014-2020 Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Status: 30 January 2015. Available online at http://www.europa-mv.de/cms2/Europamv_prod/Europamv/de/_Dokumente/EU_Foerderinstrumente_2014_2020/ELER/2015-02-13_EPLR_MV_genehmigt_13.02.2015.pdf, latest review on 26.05.2015

Gemeinsames Sekretariat, Abteilung Europa, Amt für europäische Integration Bozen (ed.) (2014): Aufruf zur Einreichung grenzübergreifender lokaler Entwicklungsstrategien im Rahmen von CLLD - INTERREG V Italien-Österreich 2014-2020. Status: 17 December 2014. Available online at <http://www.interreg.net/de/824.asp>, latest review on 02.09.2015.

Generaldirektionen der Landwirtschaft und ländliche Entwicklung (AGRI), Beschäftigung Soziales und Chancengleichheit (EMPL), Maritime Angelegenheiten und Fischerei (MARE) und Regionalpolitik und Stadtentwicklung (REGIO) der Europäischen Kommission (ed.) (2013): Gemeinsame Anleitung zur Gemeinschaftsgeführten lokalen Entwicklung in europäischen Struktur und Investitionsfonds. Status: 29 April 2013. Available online at http://www.netz-werk-laendlicher-raum.de/fileadmin/sites/ELER/Dateien/02_Regionen/lea-der_cld/CLLD_guidance_290413_final_DE.pdf, latest review on 10.03.2015.

Generaldirektion für Europäische Programme, Koordination und Entwicklung (ed.) (2014): Partnerschaftsvereinbarung Zypern 2014-2020. Status: May 2014. Available online at http://www.structuralfunds.org.cy/uploadfiles/CY_Partnership_Agreement_2014_2020.pdf, latest review on 24.10.2015

Generaldirektion Regionalpolitik und Stadtentwicklung der Europäischen Kommission (ed.) (2014a): Guidance on Community-Led Local Development in European Structural and Investment Funds. Status: 3 June 2014. Available online at http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/informat/2014/guidance_community_local_development.pdf, latest review on 04.03.2015.

- Generaldirektion Regionalpolitik und Stadtentwicklung der Europäischen Kommission (ed.) (2014b):** Integrierte territoriale Investitionen. Status: March 2014. Available online at http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/informat/2014/iti_de.pdf, latest review on 05.03.2015.
- Generalsekretariat für öffentliche Investitionen - NSRP (ed.) (2014):** Partnerschaftsvereinbarung Griechenland 2014-2020. Status: May 2014. Available online at http://www.espa.gr/elibrary/PA_ESPA_2014_2020.pdf, latest review on 22.10.2014
- Geschäftsstelle der Österreichischen Raumordnungskonferenz (ed.) (2014):** Partnerschaftsvereinbarung Österreich 2014-2020. Status: 17 October 2014. Available online at <http://www.oerok.gv.at/esi-fonds-at/partnerschaftsvereinbarung-stratat-2020/downloads.html>, latest review on 19.02.2015
- Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy (ed.) (2014):** Partnership Agreement between Slovenia and the European Commission for the period 2014-2020. Status: October 2014. Available online at www.svrk.gov.si/fileadmin/svrk.gov.si/pageuploads/KP_2014-2020/Partnerski_sporazum/SI_PARTNERSHIP_AGREEMENT.pdf, latest review on 23.02.2015
- Hessisches Ministerium für Soziales und Integration (ed.) (2014):** Operationelles Programm im Ziel „Investitionen in Wachstum und Beschäftigung“ in Hessen aus Mitteln des Europäischen Sozialfonds (ESF) 2014-2020. Status: 20 October 2014. Available online at https://www.esf-hessen.de/upload/2014-10-20_ESF_OP_Hessen_2014-2020_Allgemeine_Fassung_Ver%C3%B6ffentlichung_7891.pdf, latest review on 09.03.2015
- Hessisches Ministerium für Umwelt, Klimaschutz, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz (ed.) (2015):** Entwicklungsprogramm für den Ländlichen Raum 2014-2020. Status: 8 January 2015. Available online at https://umweltministerium.hessen.de/sites/default/files/media/hmuelv/entwicklungsplan_fuer_den_laendlichen_raum_hessen_eplr_2014-2020_genehmigte_fassung_13.02.2015_0.pdf, latest review on 26.05.2015
- Hessisches Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Energie, Verkehr und Landesentwicklung (ed.) (2014):** Operationelles Programm EFRE 2014-2020 im Rahmen des Ziels "Investitionen in Wachstum und Beschäftigung". Status: 8 December 2014. Available online at https://wirtschaft.hessen.de/sites/default/files/media/hmwvl/op_hessen_stand_08_12_2014.pdf, latest review on 04.03.2015
- Készítette a Miniszterelnökség (ed.) (2014):** Magyarország Partnerségi Megállapodása a 2014-2020-as fejlesztési időszakra. Status: 15 August 2014. Available online at <https://www.nth.gov.hu/hu/media/download/662>, latest review on 22.10.2014
- Landesamt für Geoinformation und Landentwicklung Baden-Württemberg (ed.) (2015):** RegioWIN. Available online at https://www.lgl-bw.de/lgl-internet/opencms/de/Microsite_EFRE/Foerderung/RegioWIN/, latest review on 14.09.2015.
- Latvijas Republikas Finanšu Ministrija (ed.) (2014):** Partnerības līgums ESI fondu 2014.-2020.gada plānošanas periodam Partnerības līgums Eiropas Savienības investīciju fondu 2014.-2020.gada plānošanas periodam. Status: 23 July 2014. Available online at http://www.esfondi.lv/upload/Planosana/FMPlans_230714_Partn_lig_ar_grozijumiem_17.12.2014.pdf, latest review on 23.02.2015
- Ministarstvo regionalnoga razvoja i fondova Europske unije (ed.) (2014):** Partnership Agreement Republic of Croatia 2014-2020. Status: Not specified. Available online at https://razvoj.gov.hr/UserDocImages//arhiva/EU%20fondovi//HR_PA_FINAL_ADOPTED_30_10_2014.pdf, latest review on 23.02.2015
- Ministère de l'Économie et du Commerce extérieur - Direction de la Politique régionale (ed.) (2014):** Accord de partenariat Luxembourg. Status: Not specified. Available online at <http://www.fonds-europeens.public.lu/catalogue-publications/ice/ice-documentations/fse-ice-documentations/fse-accord-partenariat.pdf>, latest review on 25.02.2015

Ministerie van Economische Zaken (ed.) (2014): Partnerschapsovereenkomst Nederland 2014-2020. Status: 7 August 2014. Available online at http://www.structuurfondsen.nl/image/24.ez_rapp_partnerschapsovereenkomst_dig.pdf, latest review on 22.10.2015

Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente (ed.) (2014): Fondo Europeo Marítimo y de Pesca: Programa Operativo para España 2014 - 2020. Status: 2014. Available online at http://www.magrama.gob.es/es/pesca/temas/fondos-europeos/programaoperativodelfondo-europeomaritimoydepesca-2_tcm7-399561.pdf, latest review on 14.08.2015

Ministerio de Hacienda Y Administraciones Publicas (ed.) (2014): Acuerdo de Asociación de España 2014-2020. Status: Not specified. Available online at http://www.dgfc.sggp.meh.es/sitios/dgfc/es-ES/ipr/fcp1420/p/pa/Documents/20141022_AA_spain_2014_2020.pdf, latest review on 31.10.2015

Ministerium der Finanzen des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt (ed.) (2014a): Operationelles Programm für den Europäischen Fonds für regionale Entwicklung (EFRE) des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt 2014-2020. Status: 19 December 2014. Available online at http://www.europa.sachsen-anhalt.de/fileadmin/Bibliothek/Politik_und_Verwaltung/StK/Europa/Bibliothek_EU-Fonds/EU-Fonds-Blog/2014_12_22_OP-Entwurf_EFRE_ohne_Aenderungsmodus.pdf, latest review on 09.03.2015

Ministerium der Finanzen des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt (ed.) (2014b): Operationelles Programm für den Europäischen Sozialfonds des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt 2014 - 2020. Status: 20 November 2014. Available online at http://www.europa.sachsen-anhalt.de/fileadmin/Bibliothek/Politik_und_Verwaltung/StK/Europa/Bibliothek_EU-Fonds/EU-Fonds-Blog/2014_12_23_OP_ESF_genehmigt.pdf, latest review on 21.08.2015.

Ministerium der Finanzen des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt (ed.) (2014c): Wettbewerbsaufruf CLLD/LEADER 2014-2020 Sachsen-Anhalt. Status: Not specified. Available online at http://www.europa.sachsen-anhalt.de/fileadmin/Bibliothek/Politik_und_Verwaltung/StK/Europa/ELER/Wettbewerbsaufruf_CLLD_LEADER_2014-2020.pdf, latest review on 26.03.2015.

Ministerium der Finanzen des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt (ed.) (2015): 100 Millionen Euro für 23 ländliche Regionen in Sachsen - Anhalt. Magdeburg. Available online at http://www.leader.sachsen-anhalt.de/fileadmin/Bibliothek/Politik_und_Verwaltung/MF/Leadernetzwerk/Bilder/Aktuelles/PI_MF_Veranstaltung_Zulassung_LAG.pdf, latest review on 21.08.2015.

Ministerium für Arbeit und Sozialordnung, Familie, Frauen, und Senioren Baden-Württemberg (ed.) (2014): Chancen fördern - Operationelles Programm des Europäischen Sozialfonds in Baden-Württemberg 2014-2020 im Ziel „Investitionen in Wachstum und Beschäftigung“. Status: 7 February 2014. Available online at <http://www.esf-bw.de/esf/der-esf-2014-20/operationelles-programm/>, latest review on 09.03.2015

Ministerium für Arbeit, Gleichstellung und Soziales (ed.) (2014): Operationelles Programm ESF Mecklenburg-Vorpommern 2014-2020. Status: October 2014. Available online at http://cms.mv-regierung.de/cms2/Europamv_prod/Europamv/de/_Dokumente/EU_Foerderinstrumente_2014_2020/ESF/ESF_OP_MV_Frderperiode_2014_bis_2020.pdf, latest review on 09.03.2015

Ministerium für Arbeit, Integration und Soziales des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen (ed.) (2014): Operationelles Programm ESF Nordrhein-Westfalen 2014-2020. Status: Version 1.4. Available online at http://www.arbeit.nrw.de/pdf/esf/esf_op_nrw_2014_2020.pdf, latest review on 09.03.2015

Ministerium für Arbeit, Soziales, Gesundheit, Frauen und Familie des Landes Brandenburg (ed.) (2014): Operationelles Programm des Landes Brandenburg für den Europäischen Sozialfonds (ESF) in der Förderperiode 2014-2020. Status: Version 1.3. Available online at http://www.esf.brandenburg.de/media_fast/667/ESF-OP_2014-2020_Version_1_0.pdf, latest review on 09.03.2015

Ministerium für Energiewende, Landwirtschaft, Umwelt und ländliche Räume des Landes Schleswig Holstein (ed.) (2015): Entwicklungsprogramm für den Ländlichen Raum 2014-2020 Schleswig Holstein. Status: 12 March 2015. Available online at <http://www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/Fachinhalte/F/foerderprogramme/MELUR/LPLR/veroeffentlichungen.html>, latest review on 26.05.2015

Ministerium für Infrastruktur und Landwirtschaft des Landes Brandenburg; Verwaltungsbehörde ELER Brandenburg und Berlin (ed.) (2015): Entwicklungsprogramm für den Ländlichen Raum 2014-2020 Brandenburg und Berlin. Status: 27 March 2015. Available online at http://www.eler.brandenburg.de/media_fast/4055/Programme_2014DE06RDRP007_1_3_de.pdf, latest review on 26.05.2015

Ministerium für Klimaschutz, Umwelt, Landwirtschaft, Natur-und Verbraucherschutz des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen (ed.) (2015): Entwicklungsprogramm für den Ländlichen Raum 2014-2020 Nordrhein-Westfalen. Status: 13 February 2015. Available online at https://www.umwelt.nrw.de/fileadmin/redaktion/PDFs/landwirtschaft/laendl_entwicklung/NRW-Programm_Laendlicher_Raum.pdf, latest review on 25.02.2015

Ministerium für Ländlichen Raum und Verbraucherschutz Baden-Württemberg (ed.) (2014): Operationelles Programm des Europäischen Fonds für regionale Entwicklung (EFRE), 2014-2020, Baden-Württemberg. Status: Version 1.2. Available online at http://www.efre-bw.de/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/EFRE_-_Operationelles_Programm_BW_2014-2020.pdf#, latest review on 05.03.2015

Ministerium für Ländlichen Raum und Verbraucherschutz Baden-Württemberg (ed.) (2015): Entwicklungsprogramm für den Ländlichen Raum 2014-2020 Baden-Württemberg. Status: 27 March 2015. Available online at <https://www.landwirtschaft-bw.info/pb/MLR.Foerderung,Lde/Startseite/Agrarpolitik/MEPL+III>, latest review on 26.05.2015

Ministerium für Soziales, Arbeit, Gesundheit und Demographie des Landes Rheinland-Pfalz (ed.) (2014): Operationelles Programm ESF Rheinland-Pfalz 2014-2020. Status: 17 December 2014. Available online at http://esf.rlp.de/fileadmin/esf/Downloads/ESF_2014-2020/Operationelles_Programm/_OPERATIONELLE_PROGRAMME_IM_RAHMEN_DES.pdf, latest review on 09.03.2015

Ministerium für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft, Ernährung, Weinbau und Forsten des Landes Rheinland-Pfalz (ed.) (2015): Entwicklungsprogramm für den Ländlichen Raum Rheinland-Pfalz Entwicklungsprogramm Umweltmaßnahmen, Ländliche Entwicklung, Landwirtschaft, Ernährung (EULLE). Status: 20 May 2015. Available online at [http://www.eler-eulle.rlp.de/Internet/global/themen.nsf/b81d6f06b181d7e7c1256e920051ac19/376BE80483AEEBBFC1257E82004BF927/\\$FILE/EPLR_EULLE_genehmigt_ohne%20NRR.pdf](http://www.eler-eulle.rlp.de/Internet/global/themen.nsf/b81d6f06b181d7e7c1256e920051ac19/376BE80483AEEBBFC1257E82004BF927/$FILE/EPLR_EULLE_genehmigt_ohne%20NRR.pdf), latest review on 27.05.2015

Ministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie des Landes Brandenburg (ed.) (2014a): Operationelles Programm des Landes Brandenburg für den Europäischen Fonds für Regionale Entwicklung (EFRE) in der Förderperiode 2014-2020. Status: 12 December 2014. Available online at http://www.efre.brandenburg.de/media_fast/4055/OP_EFRE_2014_2020.pdf, latest review on 04.03.2015

Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Arbeit, Verkehr und Technologie des Landes Schleswig Holstein (ed.) (2014b): Operationelles Programm Schleswig-Holstein ESF 2014-2020. Status: Version 1.1. Available online at https://www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/Fachinhalte/A/arbeit/Downloads/Operationelles_Programm.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=3, latest review on 09.03.2015

- Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Bau und Tourismus des Landes Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (ed.) (2014):** Operationelles Programm EFRE des Landes Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in der Förderperiode 2014 bis 2014-2020. Status: 29 October 2014. Available online at http://cms.mv-regierung.de/cms2/Europamv_prod/Europamv/de/_Dokumente/EU_Foerderinstrumente_2014_2020/EFRE/OP_genehmigt_Druck.pdf, latest review on 04.03.2015
- Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Energie, Industrie, Mittelstand und Handwerk des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen (ed.) (2014):** Operationelles Programm NRW 2014-2020 für den Europäischen Fonds für Regionale Entwicklung „Investitionen in Wachstum und Beschäftigung“. Status: 17 October 2014. Available online at http://www.efre.nrw.de/0_2_Aktuelles/00_Newsmedia/OP_Version_final_Internet_01.pdf., latest review on 09.03.2015
- Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Klimaschutz, Energie und Landesplanung Rheinland-Pfalz (ed.) (2014):** Operationelles Programm Rheinland-Pfalz EFRE 2014-2020. Status: Version 1.2. Available online at http://efre.rlp.de/fileadmin/efre/F%C3%B6rderperiode_2014-2020/Download-Center/Vereinbarungen_Operationelles_Programm/141009_Operationelles_Programm__SFC-Version.pdf, latest review on 04.03.2015
- Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj ČR (ed.) (2014a):** Integrovaný regionální operační program pro období 2014 - 2020. Status: 15 December 2014. Available online at <http://www.strukturalni-fondy.cz/cs/Fondy-EU/2014-2020/Operacni-programy/Integrovaný-regionální-operacní-program>, latest review on 12.08.2015
- Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj ČR (ed.) (2014b):** DOHODA O PARTNERSTVÍ PRO PROGRAMOVÉ OBDOBÍ 2014-2020. Status: 26 August 2014. Available online at http://www.strukturalni-fondy.cz/getmedia/6231de90-b818-4bf7-9d07-232e41da9567/Dohoda-o-partnerstvi_schvalena-EK-26-8-2014.pdf?ext=.pdf, latest review on 23.02.2015
- Ministerstwo Infrastruktury i Rozwoju (ed.) (2014):** Programowanie perspektywy finansowej 2014 - 2020 Umowa Partnerstwa. Status: 23 May 2014. Available online at https://www.funduszeuropejskie.gov.pl/media/881/Umowa_Partnerstwa_pl.pdf, latest review on 22.10.2015
- Ministerul Fondurilor Europene (ed.) (2014):** Partnership Agreement Romania 2014-2020. Status: Not specified. Available online at http://www.fonduri-ue.ro/files/documente-relevante/acord/Acord_de_Parteneriat_2014-2020_EN.pdf, latest review on 22.10.2015
- Ministerul Dezvoltării Regionale și Administrației Publice (ed.) (2014a):** Diagnostic Report - Danube Delta Integrated Sustainable Development Strategy. Status: 3 March 2014. In cooperation with World Bank (IBRD). Available online at www.mdrap.ro/userfiles/delta_dunarii/Danube_Delta_Diagnostics_Report.pdf, latest review on 09.08.2015
- Ministerul Dezvoltării Regionale și Administrației Publice (ed.) (2014b):** Report 2.2 - Draft Danube Delta Integrated Sustainable Development Strategy (2030). Status: 3 November 2014. In cooperation with World Bank (IBRD). Available online at www.mdrp.ro/userfiles/delta_dunarii/draft_Danube_Delta_Strategy.pdf, latest review on 09.08.2015
- Ministro adjunto e-do desenvolvimento regional (ed.) (2014):** Portugal 2020. Acordo de parceria 2014-2020. Status: July 2014. Available online at https://www.portugal2020.pt/Portal2020/Media/Default/Docs/1.%20AP_Portugal%202020_28julho.pdf, latest review on 29.10.2015
- Ministry of Employment and the Economy - Finland (ed.) (2014a):** Suomen kumppanuussopimus Finlands partnerskapsöverenskommelse 2014-2020. Status: 7 October 2014. Available online at <https://www.rakenerahastot.fi/documents/10179/43217/kumppanuussopimus.pdf>, latest review on 23.02.2015
- Ministry of Employment and the Economy - Finland (ed.) (2014b):** Sustainable growth and work 2014–2020: Finland's Structural Fund programme. Status: 5 December 2014. Available online at http://www.rakenerahastot.fi/web/en/programme_for_sustainable_growth_and_jobs#.VdcACZe3G9t, latest review on 21.08.2015.

- Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Bulgaria (ed.) (2014):** СПОРАЗУМЕНИЕ ЗА ПАРТНЬОРСТВО НА РЕПУБЛИКА БЪЛГАРИЯ, ОЧЕРТАВАЩО ПОМОЩТА ОТ ЕВРОПЕЙСКИТЕ СТРУКТУРНИ И ИНВЕСТИЦИОННИ ФОНДОВЕ ЗА ПЕРИОДА 2014-2020 Г. Status: July 2014. Available online at <http://archive.eufunds.bg/bg/page/993/>, latest review on 05.03.2015
- Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Estonia (ed.) (2014):** Partnership Agreement for the use of European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020. Status: Not specified. Available online at http://www.strukturifondid.ee/public/PA_EE_20062014_EN.pdf, latest review on 22.10.2014
- Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania (ed.) (2014):** Lietuvos Respublikos PARTNERYSTĖS SUTARTIS. Status: 20 June 2014. Available online at <http://www.esparama.lt/strateginiai-dokumentai1>, latest review on 05.03.2015
- Näringsdepartementet, Arbetsmarknadsdepartementet, Landsbygdsdepartementet (ed.) (2014):** Partnerskapsöverenskommelsen 2014-2020. Status: Not specified. Available online at www.esf.se/Documents/V%C3%A5ra%20program/Socialfonden%202014-2020/Programinformation/Partnerskaps%C3%B6verenskommelsen.pdf, latest review on 29.10.2014
- Niedersächsische Staatskanzlei (ed.) (2014):** Niedersächsisches fonds- und zielgebietsübergreifendes Operationelles Programm für den Europäischen Fonds für regionale Entwicklung (EFRE) und den Europäischen Sozialfonds (ESF) - Multifondsprogramm - für die EU-Strukturfondsförderperiode 2014-2020. Status: 22 December 2014. Available online at http://www.stk.niedersachsen.de/download/94960/Multifonds-OP_Stand_22.12.2014.pdf, latest review on 09.03.2015
- Niedersächsisches Ministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz (ed.) (2014):** Entwicklungsprogramm für den Ländlichen Raum 2014-2020 Niedersachsen und Bremen. Status: 29 May 2015. Available online at http://www.ml.niedersachsen.de/portal/live.php?navigation_id=35128&article_id=125826&psmand=7, latest review on 02.06.2015
- Office of the deputy Prime Minister - Ministry for European Affairs (ed.) (2014):** Partnership Agreement of Malta 2014-2020. Status: October 2014. Available online at <https://eufunds.gov.mt/en/Information/Pages/Partnership-Agreement.aspx>, latest review on 29.10.2015
- Referat Z3 "Abteilungsübergreifende Aufgaben" (ed.) (2014):** Operationelles Programm Bremen 2014-2020 für den Europäischen Fonds für Regionale Entwicklung. Status: 2 December 2014. Available online at http://www.efre-bremen.de/sixcms/media.php/13/Operationelles%20Programm%20Bremen_2014_2020.pdf, latest review on 04.03.2015
- Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia (ed.) (2015):** INTERREG V-A ITALIA-SLOVENIJA 2014-2020. Status: 27 July 2015. Available online at www.ita-slo.eu/mma_bin.php?id=2015073015142557, latest review on 11.09.2015.
- Saarland-Ministerium für Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz (ed.) (2015):** Entwicklungsprogramm für den Ländlichen Raum 2014-2020 Saarland. Status: 20 April 2015. Available online at <http://www.saarland.de/98261.htm>, latest review on 26.05.2015
- Saarland-Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Arbeit, Energie und Verkehr (ed.) (2014a):** Operationelles Programm EFRE Saarland 2014-2020 im Ziel „Investitionen in Wachstum und Beschäftigung“. Status: 19 December 2014. Available online at http://www.saarland.de/dokumente/thema_strukturfondsfoerderung/EFRE_OP_SL_2014-202019122015.pdf, latest review on 04.03.2015
- Saarland-Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Arbeit, Energie und Verkehr (ed.) (2014b):** Operationelles Programm ESF Saarland 2014-2020. Status: Version 1.3. Available online at [http://www.saarland.de/dokumente/thema_strukturfondsfoerderung/Programme_2014DE05SFOP011_1_3_de\(1\).pdf](http://www.saarland.de/dokumente/thema_strukturfondsfoerderung/Programme_2014DE05SFOP011_1_3_de(1).pdf), latest review on 09.03.2015

Sächsisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Landwirtschaft (ed.) (2014): Entwicklungsprogramm für den Ländlichen Raum 2014-2020 Sachsen. Status: Version 1.3. Available online at https://www.smul.sachsen.de/foerderung/download/EPLR_2014-2020_genehmigt.pdf, latest review on 25.02.2015

Sächsisches Staatsministerium für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Verkehr (ed.) (2014a): Operationelles Programm des Freistaates Sachsen für den ESF im Förderzeitraum 2014-2020. Status: 6 November 2014. Available online at www.strukturfonds.sachsen.de/download/ESF-OP-Sachsen-2014-2020.pdf, latest review on 09.03.2015

Sächsisches Staatsministerium für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Verkehr (ed.) (2014b): Operationelles Programm des Freistaates Sachsen für den Europäischen Fonds für regionale Entwicklung (EFRE) in der Förderperiode 2014-2020. Status: Version 1.2. Available online at www.strukturfonds.sachsen.de/download/OP_EFRE_Sachsen_2014-2020.pdf, latest review on 09.03.2015

Secrétariat général Département de la Coordination des Fonds structurels (ed.) (2014): Accord de partenariat pour la Belgique-Partnerschapsakkoord voor België. Programmation 2014-2020 - Programmaperiode 2014-2020. Status: 29 October 2014. Available online at http://europe.wal-lonie.be/sites/default/files/20141029_BE_partnerschapsakkoord_DEF_0.pdf, latest review on 23.02.2015

Senatsverwaltung für Wirtschaft, Technologie und Forschung (ed.) (2014a): Operationelles Programm Berlin EFRE 2014-2020 unter dem Ziel "Investieren für Wachstum und Arbeitsplätze". Status: Version 1.0. Available online at <https://www.berlin.de/sen/wirtschaft/gruenden-und-foerdern/europaeische-strukturfonds/efre/der-efre/operationelle-programme/das-operationelle-programm-des-efre-2014-2020/#OPgen1>, latest review on 04.03.2015

Senatsverwaltung für Wirtschaft, Technologie und Forschung (ed.) (2014b): Operationelles Programm Berlin für den Europäischen Sozialfonds in der Förderperiode 2014-2020. Status: 29 April 2014. Available online at <https://www.berlin.de/sen/wirtschaft/gruenden-und-foerdern/europaeische-strukturfonds/efre/programme/2014-20/artikel.109554.php#OPgen1>, latest review on 09.03.2015

Thüringer Ministerium für Landwirtschaft, Forsten Umwelt und Naturschutz (ed.) (2015): Entwicklungsprogramm für den Ländlichen Raum 2014-2020 Thüringen. Status: 8 April 2015. Available online at http://www.thueringen.de/mam/th9/tmblv/eler/080415_programm_v_1_4.pdf, latest review on 26.05.2015

Thüringer Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Technologie (ed.) (2014): Operationelles Programm für den Einsatz des Europäischen Sozialfonds im Freistaat Thüringen von 2014-2020. Status: 3 October 2014. Available online at http://www.esf-thueringen.de/imperia/md/content/esf_2014/bibliothek/op/esf_op_2014_2020_web.pdf, latest review on 09.03.2015

Thüringer Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Wissenschaft und Digitale Gesellschaft (ed.) (2014): Operationelles Programm im Rahmen des Ziels "Investitionen in Wachstum und Beschäftigung". Status: Version 1.2. Available online at http://www.efre20-thueringen.de/mam/efre20/op/op_thueringen_efre_20142020.pdf, latest review on 09.03.2015

Úrad vlády Slovenskej republiky - Centrálny koordinačný orgán (ed.) (2014): Partnership Agreement of the SR for the years 2014-2020. Status: Not specified. Available online at www.nsrr.sk/download.php?FNAME=1403257613.upl&ANAME=Partnership+Agreement+of+the+SR+for+the+years+2014-2020_EN.docx, latest review on 05.03.2015

Verwaltungsbehörde, Ministerium der Finanzen des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt (ed.) (2014): Entwicklungsprogramm für den Ländlichen Raum 2014-2020 Sachsen-Anhalt. Status: Version 1.4. Available online at <http://www.europa.sachsen-anhalt.de/eu-fonds-in-sachsen-anhalt/foerderperioden/foerderperiode-2014-2020/>, latest review on 25.02.2015

Vlaamse Beheersautoriteit Europese Structuurfondsen - Agentschap Ondernemen, Afdeling Europa Economie (ed.) (2014): EUROPEES FONDS VOOR REGIONALE ONTWIKKELING - OPERATIONEEL PROGRAMMA "INVESTEREN IN GROEI EN WERKGELEGENHEID" VLAANDEREN 2014 – 2020. Status: December 2014. Available online at <http://www.agentschapondernemen.be/download/file/fid/33430>, latest review on 21.08.2015