



ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA PER IL CONSIGLIO DEI COMUNI
E DELLE REGIONI D'EUROPA

DIALOGUE ON COHESION POLICY

AICCRE

REPORT event 7 marzo 2018,

Sala Raffaello, presso Palazzo Raffaello (Ancona), sede della Regione Marche

Report Activity

Description of the discussions during the event

Manuela Bora - Assessore alle Politiche Comunitarie Regione Marche

Mrs Bora underlines the importance of European funds, with reference to the different economic categories, entrepreneurs in the first place, and how Regione Marche has committed itself to make the financing system more transparent, facilitating the publicity of the calls. She emphasizes, as an emblematic example of the usefulness of European funds, the contribution given to the post-earthquake reconstruction, to be remembered in these times of Euroscepticism.

Cohesion policy (which absorbs 1/3 of EU resources) aims to create jobs, supporting businesses and private economic initiative; contributes to reducing regional disparities; tackles global challenges such as climate change and migration. It is implemented through the ERDF, ESF, EMFF, RDP and FSC funds.

Talking about these funds and post-2020 cohesion policy therefore means talking about future Europe.

There are three scenarios that are envisaged: the Cohesion Policy could be addressed only to countries that have recently joined the EU; it could only address the less developed areas; could be maintained in its current formulation. The choice is not obvious, and the difficulty of financing coverage weighs. Obviously, Italy, together with all the Regions, strongly support the last scenario, because cohesion policy must help all the regions, because even in the richest there are pockets of poverty.

Davide Frulla - Delegated by Mr. Massimo Seri, Mayor of dal Fano and AICCRE Marche Vice-President.

The aim of his speech is to testify how a medium-sized municipality, beneficiary of EU funding through regional calls, sees cohesion policy implemented.



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One of the pillars of the cohesion policy is that of territoriality and multilevel governance, which finds in AICCRE an important reference for its action to promote dialogue between territories and funding bodies. Despite the many efforts, there remains a difficulty on the part of private individuals and local authorities to follow the bureaucratic procedures related to calls. A first issue that arises for the future of cohesion policy, hoping that there are no cuts, is precisely to understand how to make bureaucratic management easier, reducing the delay in expenditure that follows.

A second pillar of cohesion policy is the seven-year program. It is good to define the post-2020 policy soon to allow regional administrations to program the use of funds, otherwise it risks not only a slowdown in spending, but a slowdown in the development of the territories that those funds will struggle to access.

A third pillar is the result orientation: the 2014-2020 programming has focused a lot on the verification of the impacts on the development objectives.

Mr Frulla then indicates a critical approach to the Cohesion Policy in small businesses, which are not always ready for the programming work required by the financing system: awareness of this need is not yet common heritage.

A positive experimentation has been that of Integrated Territorial Investments, for their relevance in terms of integrated governance and as a tool that encourages joint planning, partly overcoming the dynamics of calls and calls. The managing authority of an ITI, once legally recognized, can in turn access the funds of the CTE programs. This is indicative of how it is already changing the Cohesion Policy, which opens to a vision that goes beyond regional boundaries. Mr Frulla also emphasizes the attention to a participatory development, and the "Fano 2030" plan, which represents an example of a multi-sectoral participative strategic plan. Another significant experience is "Smart Buildings for Fano", which produced a mapping of the energy impacts of public buildings. By acquiring these tools, it is possible to plan participation in tenders not only by drawing on ESF and ERDF funds, but also by participating in Horizon programs if there is an innovative industrial component. As for the Territorial Cooperation, it underlines how the CTE programs are structured on four axes that recall the structure of the ROPs. This means either that a local authority can obtain integrated CTE and POR funding, or that the region itself can access CTE funds.

The challenge in view of the post 2020 cannot be just the defense of funding, but the sharing between managing bodies and beneficiaries aimed at the best use of funds that we hope will be maintained.



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Patrizia Bernacconi - Servizio Politiche Agroalimentari, Regione Marche

Mrs Bernacconi provides an update on the programming and implementation of the MARCHE 2014-2020 RDP, powered by the EAFRD Fund. Indicates the priorities of the Development Policy: 1) Promotion of the transfer of knowledge and innovation 2) Competitiveness and profitability; 3) Promotion of the agro-food supply chain and risk management; 4) Protection and restoration of natural ecosystems; 5) Fight against climate change; 6) Promote social inclusion, poverty reduction and development.

Following the earthquake, resources from the funds of the other regions were added to the RDP Marche. An update of the RDP was therefore approved in November 2017. The objectives of the revised RDP are therefore: to support the continuity of production and the development of existing farms and zootechnics and the establishment of new companies; to support the economic and social recovery of the rural areas affected by the earthquake; expand opportunities and improve the conditions offered to farm and other operators operating in the earthquake crater.

Regarding the implementation of the RDP, 81 calls were launched, calling for 73% of the initial allocation of the fund, reaching a funding of 49% and a percentage of payments of 11%. Over 14,000 loans were thus granted.

Between the first and second half of 2018, another 218 million euros will be banned, equal to 31% of the current provision of the fund, thus coming to commit 88% of the total allocation of the RDP.

Andrea Pellei - PF National and Community planning, ERDF Managing Authority and ESF

Mr. Pellei presents some data on the results of the POR FESR 2007-2013 programming. He underlines how it has contributed to addressing the structural weaknesses highlighted at the beginning of programming (innovation, energy, internationalization of the economy). Some difficulties encountered are related to: international crisis, the complexity of procurement procedures, lengthening of time frames following appeals, restrictions on public sector spending.

From a financial point of view, Mr Pellei indicates how the expenditure thresholds set at European level have always been reached, such as the measures to accelerate spending have allowed to always be in line with the infra-annual targets set and, finally, how the payments have been supported in the initial phase by aid interventions to SMEs and only in the final phase by the expenditure of local authorities in public works.



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He presents the POR FESR 2014-2020 programming, as integrated in December 2017 following the increase in funding linked to the earthquake, which occurred both through the allocation by the other regions and through a Commission allocation. It then presents the financial data of the programming divided by axis, indicating the budget, the resources committed, those granted and payments. It also presents the POR FSE 2014-2020 programming, indicating the financial data.

Regarding the future of cohesion policy, he underlines the need to overcome the contrast between contributors and net beneficiaries, to shift attention to policies in areas where the EU can provide public goods that Member States cannot guarantee.

He concludes by proposing the three possible scenarios for the Cohesion Policy, underlining the risk linked to the hypothesis that this policy is directed towards the countries recently entered the EU, thus missing important forms of development support in most of Europe.

Oriana Blasi - Agency for Territorial Cohesion, Ministry of Economic Development

Mrs Blasi affirms that the experience of the previous programming has taught the difficulty of informing citizens, the last beneficiaries of the cohesion policy, of the role of the same: **communication is central**. The focus must be on coordination of communication and concreteness, bringing to the public's knowledge both the concrete experiences of benefits obtained and the difficulties encountered, in a very transparent way. In fact, the involvement of administrators and professionals in the sector is not enough, it is necessary to involve the population.

Antonio Secchi - P.F. Innovation, Research and Competitiveness, Marche Region

Mr Secchi illustrates the tender "Manifattura e Lavoro 4.0" as an example of integration between funds.

The objective of this call for tenders, in line with the national "Industria 4.0" plan and with the tendency to support investments in innovation and technology, was to encourage technology transfer in small and micro enterprises, with a strong focus on vocational training, to the skills. We have put in dialogue the three services (PF Innovation, PF Lavoro and PF Formazione). 9 million have been made available by the POR FESR and 2 by the POR FSE.

The tender has financed the purchase of goods (instrumental and intangible) and services for the technological / digital transformation of companies; the activation of personnel through traineeships; recruitment aid.



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Franco Sotte - Director of Agriregionieuropa, Marche Polytechnic University

Mr Sotte shares a reflection on the concept of rural development, reflecting on the evolution of rurality from "agrarian" to "industrial" and finally "post-industrial". He concluded by underlining that the two assets for the development of the Marche region are the Adriatic centrality and rural development (second pillar of the CAP, which he hopes for a rethinking).

Simone Tascini - University of Camerino

Mr Tascini illustrates the project related to the new educational center of the municipality of Montelupone (MC), kindergarten and solar park. The project develops the idea of combining a need expressed by the community (a school campus) with an innovative and environmentally responsible design.

The designed structure is equipped with systems to produce energy from renewable sources and develops synergies between passive and active energy saving systems, giving interesting results in terms of the long-term economic impact. He concludes by underlining how a realization of the kind, exemplary in terms of environmental impact, would not have been possible for a small municipality in the absence of funding obtained through the POR FESR.

Francesco Passetti - Mayor of the city of Frontone (PU), President of "Unione montana del Catria e Nerone"

Mr Passetti illustrates the project "The kindergartens of the Apennines", underlining how the most interesting aspects are the integration of funds and the fact that the nine municipalities involved have cooperated in the development of a shared development strategy that embraces all sectors. Today we are talking about cohesion funds, but there are also other funds that can be activated, such as those offered by the National Strategy internal areas. The coordinated programming is the result of a very strong cohesion and collaboration among the municipalities and allows to draw on these resources in a complementary way, mutually reinforcing the different actions, giving hope to the internal areas.

The project aims to reverse the tendency to depopulate the area, integrating primary services and increasing support for tourism, culture and agriculture by promoting land development.

Ennio Gambi - Marche Polytechnic University



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Mr Gambi illustrates the "Openicare" project, which aims to create a new management model to ensure transparency, effectiveness and efficiency of care processes in residences for non-self-sufficient elderly people, using a modular platform integrated with an environment smart distributed. A set of sensors will provide data that will be processed to verify some indicators of the quality of the assistance provided, through a special platform.

It then proceeds to illustrate the partnership, indicating the various industrial, experimental and scientific partners.

Conclusion, recommendations and further steps

Davide Frulla - Delegated by the Mayor of Fano, Massimo Seri and AICCRE Marche Vice President.

Mr Frulla concludes by underlining how the work that the regions are responsible for managing these funds is extremely important, just as it is important for local authorities to equip themselves to exploit them, as did the municipalities that brought their testimony.

In the desirable hypothesis that the Cohesion Policy is confirmed in its current formulation, with the necessary congruous endowment of funds, **invites to work on the communication front**, constantly promoting accompanying meetings for companies and organizations from the publication of the call for proposals until to the presentation of the projects, thus spreading awareness both on the importance of the Cohesion Policy and on the administrative difficulties that accompany it.

Results/ expected results

The participants were able to collect testimonies of how local authorities and companies can exploit the opportunities offered by european funds. Emphasis has been placed on the planning of development plans and, more generally, on planning activities which allow available resources to be drawn from the various funds in a reasoned and coordinated way. In this way, different projects can be integrated into an overall logic that allows achieving greater efficiency. Moreover, the consideration of many projects financed, implemented or in progress, have once again proven how cohesion policy is a concrete tool and accessible to public and private entities, able to respond to the need for territorial areas and to support meritorious initiatives that they can then become good practices to be exported to other landlords. Surely this has helped to strengthen awareness of the importance of Cohesion Policy and more generally of Europe.



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Regarding the future of cohesion policy, one clear message was the need to overcome the contrast between contributors and net beneficiaries, and to keep Cohesion Policy for all territories of the European Union. As well, communication is central, bringing to the public's knowledge both the concrete experiences of benefits obtained and the difficulties encountered, in a very transparent way.

Participants

Gender balance and mainstreaming: n. 77 participants

n. 47 men, n. 30 women; (61 % men, 39 % women)

divided as follows:

	WOMEN	MEN
- Students	2	1
- Civil society	10	27
- Speakers	2	7
- Local administrator	15	11
- Institutions- National Agency	1	1

Communication strategy

Media coverage

- List of media
Cronache Fermane
ANCONA TODAY
TVRS
- Social media activities before, during and after the event (Tweets, Facebook, etc.)
TWEET event: n. 15 plus 44 retweets
views ONLY of our (therefore excluding retweeted) 19.661.
n.9 interviews on the YouTube channel AICCRE available here:
<https://www.aiccre.it/evento/7marzo-ancona/>
- Press conference no
- Press release : Press communication and press release before the event
- Number of webpage views:
News: [AICCRE website](https://www.aiccre.it) enriched with 144 photo, n. 10 videos on cohesion funds, 9 interviews, written interventions, slides.
<https://www.aiccre.it/evento/7marzo-ancona/>



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- Video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Y4DA-W6rGA&feature=youtu.be>
- Press clipping after the dialogue indicated and number of articles echoed by media

Newspapers and agencies and television:

- NOTE on Cronache Fermane:
<https://www.cronachefermane.it/2018/03/07/opportunita-dei-fondi-europei-bora-uniche-risorse-disponibili-partecipare-a-programmazione-post-2020/156008/>
- TVRS NOTE of the Ancona event:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YRQRriO4Vi8&list=PLVuhwVf6MXu6ev0wgsC6LWFIMVnAB-NKM>
- TVRS SPECIAL
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1_KIK5TJSQ&index=3&list=PLVuhwVf6MXu6ev0wgsC6LWFIMVnAB-NKM
- NOTE on ANCONA TODAY: <http://www.anconatoday.it/politica/politica-coesione-seminario-regione-marche.html>