



## #CohesionAlliance for a strong EU cohesion policy beyond 2020

Cohesion policy is the main European investment policy to achieve the EU Treaty objective of economic, social and territorial cohesion. In doing so cohesion policy has a clear added value in creating jobs, sustainable growth and modern infrastructure, overcoming structural barriers, boosting human capital and improving the quality of life. It also enables cooperation between regions, cities and municipalities from different Members States, as well as cooperation with the private sector, knowledge institutions and social partners at regional level.

As #CohesionAlliance we are working together for a strong policy to promote economic, social and territorial cohesion in the European Union beyond 2020. We therefore sign up to the following principles and call upon representatives of all institutions at European, national, regional or local level, civil society, and businesses to do the same in the months to come.

As #CohesionAlliance we declare that cohesion policy...

1. works as a **long-term investment policy for all regions** in Europe to support growth and jobs at local and regional level by promoting innovative solutions for issues such as climate change and energy transition, social inclusion, as well as for cross-border, transnational and interregional co-operation;
2. is needed more than ever as an expression of European solidarity to **overcome the economic, social and territorial divide** by providing every citizen, wherever they live in Europe, with a tangible opportunity to experience the advantages of our European Union;
3. must be **better communicated** as the EU policy closest to the citizen, having a direct impact on their daily lives;
4. must continue to be an effective policy with **sufficient resources** of at least one-third of the future EU budget to be delivered via grants and, where appropriate, via financial instruments;
5. must be **based on the existing European Structural and Investment Funds with a common set of provisions**;
6. requires the **strengthening of the partnership principle and the place-based approach** by reinforcing the key role of local and regional authorities in delivering the policy by actively engaging urban and rural communities and promoting tools to trigger and support local development through integrated strategies;
7. must be **better coordinated with other EU policies on a level playing field** by taking into account the specificities of municipalities, cities and regions in the European Union;
8. must **not be subject to conditionalities** at European level that cannot be influenced by local and regional authorities and other beneficiaries;
9. must be **simplified and improved**, based on increased trust between the levels of government implementing the funds and a more flexible and differentiated approach.

Signature:



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