

2025

LDnet webinar series

# Territorial tools in a changing Europe – how were they applied in the past and what might emerge?

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# Introduction of territorial instruments in 2014-20

## *Key elements*

### Compulsory allocation (urban):

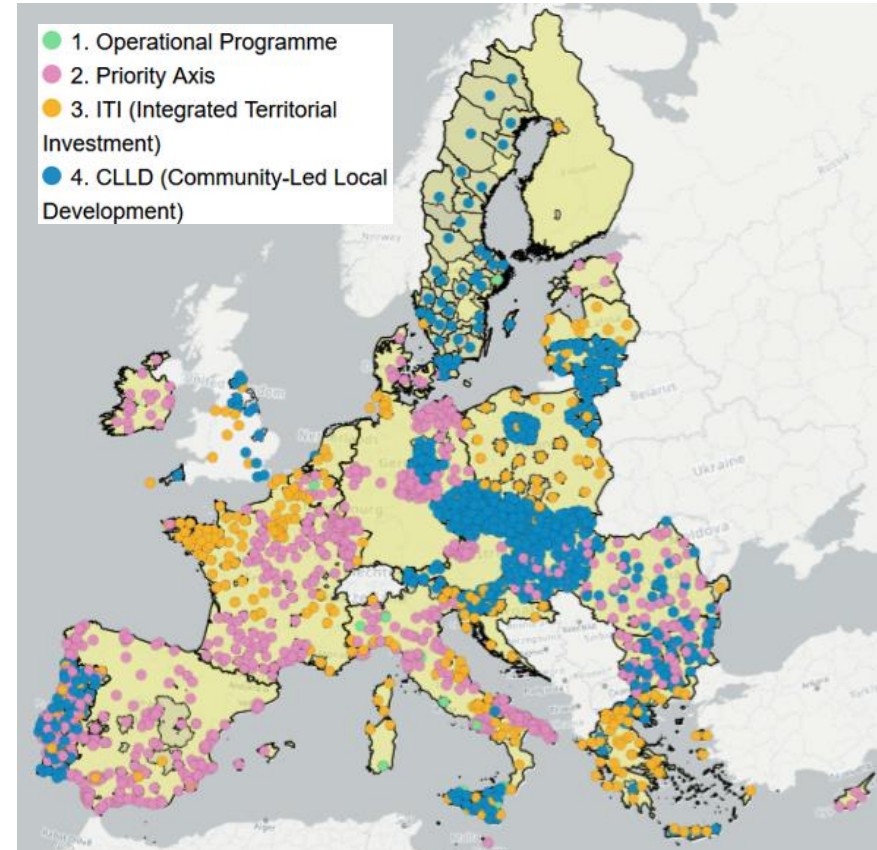
- minimum of 5% ERDF funding for Sustainable Urban Development

### Optional new tools:

- ITI (Integrated Territorial Investments)
- CLLD (Community-led Local Development)

## *Implementation*

- **€28.8 billion** Cohesion Policy funding implemented through territorial instruments
- **1,971 territorial instruments** funded by Cohesion Policy
- **Diverse take-up** – see map



# Territorial dimension in 2021-27

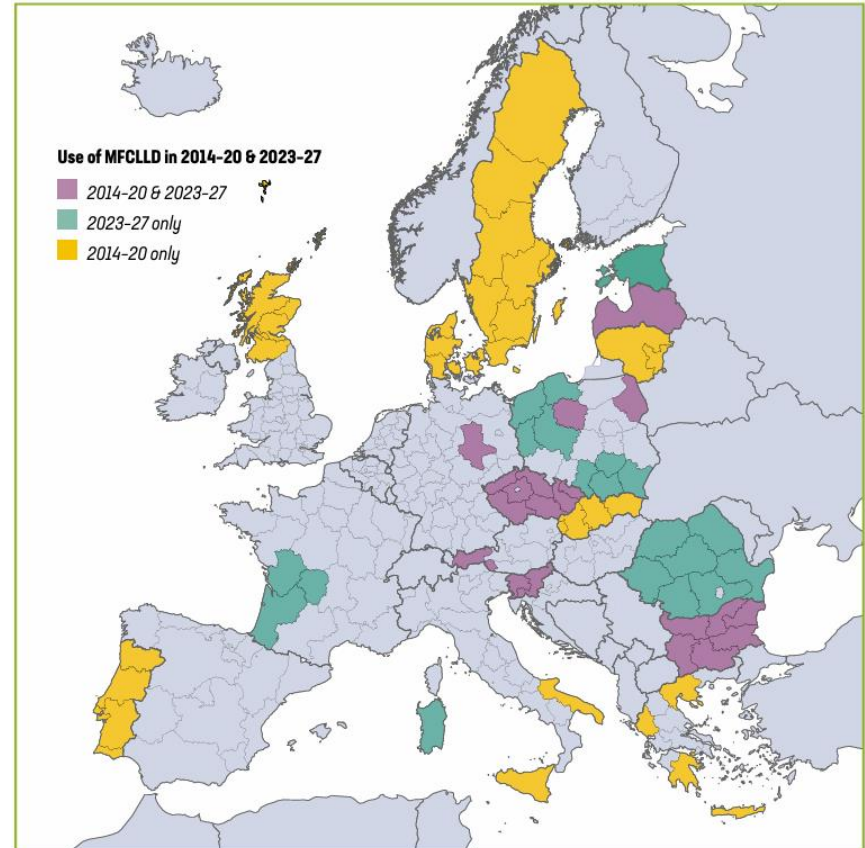
Compulsory urban allocation increased from 5% to **8%**

New category “**other tools**”: e.g. domestic approaches in line with key principles

Uptake:

- **€40 billion** Cohesion Policy funding implemented through territorial instruments\*
- **ITI**: broadly **continuation** and often **expansion** (CZ, PL, HR)
- **CLLD**: mix of **introduction** (RO, FR, EE), **continuation** (BG, CZ, SI) and **discontinuation** (PT, SE, SK) – see map

Evolution of CLLD coverage (NUTS 2)



\*COM (2023) [Report](#) on the outcome of 2021-2027 cohesion policy programming

# Factors influencing MS take-up of territorial instruments

## 1. Institutional set-up overall

- e.g. regionalisation, local-level autonomy

## 2. Decentralisation rationale

- interest in devolvement of tasks to sub-national levels

## 3. Cohesion Policy governance model

- regionalised delivery, use of thematic / regional / multi-Fund programmes

## 4. Administrative capacities

- (perceived) capacities at territorial level, trust from higher levels

## 5. Importance and scale of EU Cohesion Policy funding

- funding fragmentation, added value of creating complex systems

## 6. Existing territorial development frameworks

- availability of sufficient alternative domestic funding sources

# Any future for the territorial dimension?

- Many countries established reasonably **strong implementation systems** for territorial instruments
- Debate on the **degree of centralisation** of Cohesion Policy - along the lines of the **Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)**?
- What territorial dimension in Member State “**Single Plans**”?
- The EU’s “**Road to the next multi-annual financial framework**”:  
*“A plan for each country with key reforms and investments, and focusing on our joint priorities, including promoting economic, social and territorial cohesion.  
A strengthened cohesion and growth policy with regions at its centre  
must be designed and implemented in partnership  
with national, regional and local authorities.”*