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Subject: Cohesion Policy legislative package
- Presidency compromise on the Common Strategic Framework

Delegations will find attached a compromise text on the Articles of the Common Provisions Regulation related to the Common Strategic Framework and the new Annex I.

The modifications highlighted in bold are those in comparison to the Commission's amended proposal of 11 September 2012.

COMMON PROVISIONS REGULATION

PART ONE

SUBJECT-MATTER AND DEFINITIONS

RECITALS:

- (14) In order to maximise the contribution of the CSF Funds and to provide [...] strategic **orientation** to the programming process at the level of Member States and the regions, a Common Strategic Framework should be established [...]. The Common Strategic Framework should facilitate sectoral and territorial coordination of Union intervention under the CSF Funds and with other relevant Union policies and instruments **in order to achieve the objectives and targets of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, taking into account the key territorial challenges.**
- (15) The Common Strategic Framework should therefore set out [...] **how the CSF Funds will contribute to the objectives of Union's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, the means to** address **key** territorial challenges, **the integrated use of CSF Funds,** horizontal principles and cross-cutting policy objectives, **the means for** coordination with [...] other relevant Union policies and cooperation **activities** [...].
- (16) On the basis of the Common Strategic Framework, each Member State should prepare, in cooperation with its partners and in dialogue with the Commission, a Partnership **Agreement**. The Partnership **Agreement** should translate the elements set out in the Common Strategic Framework into the national context and set out firm commitments to the achievement of Union objectives through the programming of the CSF Funds.

Article 2

Definitions

- (2) [...] "common strategic framework"
- (3) [...] "action"
- (4) [...] "indicative action of high value European added value"

PART TWO
COMMON PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO CSF FUNDS

TITLE II
STRATEGIC APPROACH

CHAPTER I
Thematic objectives for the CSF Funds and Common Strategic Framework

Article 10

Common Strategic Framework

- 1.** In order to promote the harmonious, balanced and sustainable development of the Union, a Common Strategic Framework shall provide [...] strategic **orientation** to the programming process and **to the facilitation of the** sectoral and territorial coordination of Union intervention under the CSF Funds and with other relevant Union policies and instruments in line with the objectives and targets of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth **taking into account the key territorial challenges for different types of territories.**

- 2.** **The strategic orientation as set out in the Common Strategic Framework shall be established within the purpose and the scope of the assistance provided by each CSF Fund, as well as the rules governing the operation of each CSF Fund, as defined in this Regulation and the Fund-specific rules. It shall also not impose additional obligations to Member States beyond those set out within the framework of the relevant sectoral Union policies.**

- 3.** **The Common Strategic Framework shall facilitate the preparation of the Partnership Agreement and programmes in accordance with the principles of proportionality and subsidiarity and taking into account the national and regional competences to decide on the specific and adequate policy and coordination measures.**

Article 11

Content

The Common Strategic Framework shall establish:

- (a) **mechanisms for ensuring the contribution of the CSF Funds to the Union's Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and** coherence and consistency of the programming of the CSF Funds with the **relevant** country-specific recommendations **adopted in accordance with** Article 121(2) of the Treaty **on the Functioning of the European Union** and the relevant Council recommendations **adopted in accordance with** under 148(4) of the Treaty **on the Functioning of the European Union;**
- (b) **the means** to address the **key** territorial challenges [...] **for** urban, rural, coastal and fisheries areas, as well as [...] for areas with particular territorial features referred to in Articles 174 and 349 of the Treaty **on the Functioning of the European Union;**
- (c) **arrangements to promote the integrated use of the CSF Funds**
- (d) horizontal principles and cross-cutting policy objectives for the implementation of the CSF Funds;
- (e) [...]
- (e a) **the means for** coordination [...] with other relevant Union policies and instruments, including external instruments for cooperation;
- (f) cooperation **activities**-for the CSF Funds, where appropriate, taking account of macro-regional and sea basin strategies.

Article 12

[...] **Review**

The Common Strategic Framework is set out in Annex I to this Regulation.

Where there are major changes in the **social and economic situation in the Union** or in the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, **the Common Strategic Framework may be subject to revision, in which case either the European Parliament or the Council may request the Commission to submit an appropriate proposal for the necessary amendments. If the Commission does not submit a proposal, it shall inform the European Parliament and the Council of the reasons for not doing so.**

[...]

ANNEX I

Common Strategic Framework [...]

1. Introduction

In order to **promote the harmonious, balanced and sustainable development of the Union and** to maximise the contribution of the CSF Funds to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth [...], it is necessary to ensure that policy commitments made in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy are underpinned by investment through the CSF Funds and other Union instruments. **The Common Strategic Framework therefore shall provide strategic orientation in order to achieve an integrated development approach using the CSF Funds coordinated with other Union instruments and policies,-in line with the policy objectives and headline targets of the Europe 2020 strategy and, where appropriate, the flagship initiatives and taking into account the key territorial challenges.**

2. Contribution of CSF Funds to the Union's Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth

- 1. To support effective targeting of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the Partnership Agreements and programmes this Regulation identifies eleven thematic objectives set out in Article 9 corresponding to the priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy which shall receive support from the CSF Funds.**

- 2. In line with these thematic objectives, Member States shall in order to ensure critical mass necessary to deliver growth and jobs, concentrate support in accordance with Article 16 of this Regulation and Fund specific rules on thematic concentration and shall ensure the effectiveness of investments. They** shall give particular attention to prioritising growth-friendly expenditure, including spending on education, research, innovation and energy efficiency and expenditure to facilitate the access of SMEs to finance and to ensure environmental sustainability, **and** the management of natural resources and climate action [...]. They shall also take account of maintaining or reinforcing the coverage and effectiveness of employment services and active labour market policies, with a focus on youth unemployment.
- 3. To ensure consistency with priorities established in the context of the European Semester,** in preparing their Partnership **Agreements,** Member States shall **plan the use** of the CSF Funds taking into account **the National Reform Programmes, where appropriate, and** the most recent relevant country-specific recommendations **and relevant Council recommendations adopted in accordance with** Article 121(2) and Article 148(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union in accordance with their respective roles and obligations. Member States, **where necessary,** shall also take into account relevant Council recommendations based on the Stability and Growth Pact and the economic adjustment programmes. [...]
- 4. In order to determine the way in which the CSF Funds can most effectively contribute to the Europe 2020 strategy, and to take account of the Treaty objectives of economic, social and territorial cohesion, Member States shall select the thematic objectives for the planned use of the CSF Funds within the appropriate national, regional and local contexts.**

3. Means to Address **Key** Territorial Challenges

3.1 Member States shall take account of geographic or demographic features and take steps to address the specific territorial challenges of each region to unlock their specific development potential, thereby also helping them to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the most efficient way.

The choice and combination of thematic objectives, as well as the selection of corresponding investment and Union priorities and the specific objectives set shall reflect the needs and potential for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth of each Member State and region.

3.2 When preparing Partnership Agreements and programmes Member States shall therefore take into consideration that the major societal challenges faced by the European Union today - globalisation, demographic change, environmental degradation, migration, climate change, energy use, the economic and social consequences of the crisis – may have different impacts in different regions.

3.3 In order to take into account the objective of territorial cohesion, the Member States and regions shall, **in particular**, ensure that the overall approach to promoting smart, sustainable and inclusive growth **in the areas concerned**:

- (a) reflects the role of cities, **urban and** rural areas, fisheries and coastal areas, **and** areas facing specific geographical or demographic **handicaps**;
- (b) takes account of the specific challenges of the outermost regions, the northernmost regions with a very low population density and of island, cross-border or mountain regions;
- (c) addresses urban-rural linkages, in terms of access to affordable, **high** quality infrastructure and services, and problems in regions with a high concentration of socially marginalised communities.

3.4 Member States shall ensure that programmes under the CSF Funds reflect the diversity of European regions, whether in terms of employment and labour market characteristics, commuting patterns, population ageing and demographic shifts, cultural, landscape and heritage features, climate change vulnerabilities and impacts, land use and resource constraints, institutional and governance arrangements, connectivity or accessibility, and linkages between rural and urban areas. In accordance with Article 14 (1) (a) of this Regulation, Member States and regions shall therefore undertake the following steps for the purpose of preparation of their Partnership Agreements and programmes:

- (a) An analysis of the Member State's or region's development potential and capacity, particularly in relation to the key challenges identified in Europe 2020, the National Reform Programmes, **where appropriate**, the relevant country-specific recommendations **adopted in accordance with Article 121 (2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and relevant Council recommendations adopted in accordance with Article 148 (4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union**. The responsible authorities shall undertake an [...] analysis of national-**and** regional [...] characteristics;
- (b) An assessment of the major challenges to be addressed by the region or Member State, the identification of the bottlenecks and missing links, innovation gaps, including the lack of planning and implementation capacity that inhibit the long-term potential for growth and jobs. This shall form the basis for the identification of the possible fields and activities for policy prioritisation, intervention and concentration;
- (c) An assessment of the cross-sectoral, cross-jurisdictional or cross-border coordination challenges, particularly in the context of macro-regional and sea-basin strategies;
- (d) Identification of steps to achieve improved coordination across different territorial levels and sources of funding to deliver an integrated approach linking Europe 2020 with regional and local actors.

4. Integrated Use of the CSF Funds

In accordance with Article 14 (2) (a) of this Regulation the Partnership Agreement shall indicate an integrated approach to territorial development. Member States shall ensure that the selection of the thematic objectives and investment and Union priorities addresses development needs and territorial challenges in an integrated manner in line with the analysis set out in section 3.4 above. Member States shall seek to make maximum use of the possibilities to ensure coordinated and integrated delivery of the CSF funds.

4.1 Coordination [...] of the CSF Funds

[...]

1. Member States shall ensure that the interventions supported through the CSF Funds are complementary and are implemented in a coordinated manner [...] **in order to** reduce administrative cost and burden on the ground **in accordance with Articles 4, 14 and 24 of this Regulation.**

[...]

2. Member States and managing authorities responsible for the implementation of the CSF Funds shall work closely together in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Partnership **Agreement** and programmes. In particular, they shall ensure that the following actions are carried out:
 - (a) identify areas of intervention where the CSF Funds can be combined in a complementary manner to achieve the thematic objectives set out in this Regulation;
 - (b) promote the involvement of managing authorities responsible for other CSF Funds or other **relevant** managing authorities and [...] ministries in the development of support schemes to ensure coordination and avoid overlaps;

- (c) establish, where appropriate, joint monitoring committees for programmes implementing the CSF Funds, and the development of other joint management and control arrangements to facilitate coordination between authorities responsible for the implementation of the CSF Funds;
- (d) **promote the** use of joint eGovernance solutions aimed at [...] beneficiaries, **in accordance with the relevant Articles of the Fund-specific rules**, and "one-stop shops" for advice on the opportunities of support available through each of the CSF Funds;
- (e) establish mechanisms to coordinate cooperation activities financed by the ERDF and the ESF with investments supported by the 'Investment for Growth and Jobs goal' programmes.
- (f) **promote common approaches between CSF Funds to guidance for the development of operations, calls for proposals and selection processes or other mechanisms to facilitate access to Funds for integrated projects.**
- (g) **encourage cooperation between managing authorities of different CSF Funds in the areas of monitoring, evaluation, management and control, and audit.**

4.2 Encouraging integrated approaches

1. Member States shall, where appropriate, combine the CSF Funds into integrated packages at local, regional or national level, which are tailor-made to address specific **territorial challenges** in order to support the achievement of the **objectives set out in the Partnership Agreement and programmes** [...] **This can be done using** Integrated Territorial Investments, integrated operations, Joint Action Plans **and Community Led Local Development.**

- 2. In accordance with Article ex-99 of this Regulation, to achieve integrated use of the matic objectives, funding from different priority axes or operational programmes supported by the ESF, ERDF and Cohesion Fund may be combined under an Integrated Territorial Investment. This may be complemented with financial support from the EAFRD or the EMFF from the respective programmes.**
- 3. In accordance with the relevant Articles of the Fund specific rules, to increase impact and effectiveness in a thematically coherent integrated approach a priority axis can, in duly justified circumstances, concern more than one category of region or combine one or more complementary investment priorities from the ERDF, CF and ESF.**
- 4. Member States shall promote, in accordance with national rules and practices and with Article 28 of this Regulation** the development of local and sub-regional approaches [...]. Community-led local development shall be implemented in the context of a strategic approach to ensure that the ‘bottom-up’ definition of local needs takes account of priorities set at a higher level. Member States shall therefore define the approach to community-led local development **by the EAFRD and, where appropriate, by the ERDF, the ESF or the EMFF in accordance with Article 14 (2) of this Regulation** and shall indicate in the Partnership **Agreement** the main challenges to be tackled in this way, the main objectives and priorities for community-led local development, the types of territories to be covered, **the** specific role **to** be attributed to local action groups in the delivery of strategies and the role envisaged **for the EAFRD and where appropriate by the ERDF, the ESF or the EMFF** in implementing local development strategies in different types of territories such as rural, urban and coastal areas and the corresponding co-ordination mechanisms.

5. Horizontal Principles and Cross-cutting Policy Objectives

A. Horizontal principles

5.1 Partnership and multi-level governance

1. In accordance with Article 5 **of this Regulation**, the principle of partnership and multi-level governance shall be respected by Member States in order to facilitate achieving social, economic and territorial cohesion and delivery of the Union's priorities of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. This requires coordinated action carried out in accordance with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, and in partnership. It **may** take the form of operational and institutionalised cooperation, in particular with regard to the drawing-up and implementation of the Union's policies. Member States shall therefore make [...] use of the partnerships established in the framework of the CSF Funds.

5.2 Sustainable development

1. To ensure the full mainstreaming of sustainable development into the CSF Funds, and respecting the principle of sustainable development as laid down in Article 3 **(3)** of the Treaty on European Union, the obligation to integrate environmental protection requirements according to Article 11 and the polluter pays principle as set out in Article 192 **(5)** of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, managing authorities shall undertake actions throughout the programme lifecycle, to avoid or reduce environmentally harmful effects of interventions and ensure results in net social, environmental and climate benefits. **Actions to be undertaken may include the following:**
 - (a) directing investments towards the most resource-efficient and sustainable options,
 - (b) avoiding investments that may have a significant negative environmental or climate impact, and supporting actions to mitigate any remaining impacts,
 - (c) taking a long-term perspective when 'life-cycle' costs of alternative options for investment are compared,
 - (d) increasing the use of green public procurement.

2. Member States shall **take into consideration the climate change mitigation potential of investments made with the support of the CSF Funds, in accordance with Article 8 of this Regulation [...], and ensure that they are** resilient to the impact of climate change and natural disasters such as increased risks of flooding, **droughts**, heat waves, **forest fires** and extreme weather events.
3. [...]
- 3.** Investments **shall** be consistent with the water hierarchy, with a focus on demand management options. **Alternative supply options shall** only be considered when the potential for water savings and efficiency has been exhausted. Public intervention in the waste management sector shall complement efforts by the private sector, in particular **in relation to** producer responsibility. **Investments shall encourage** innovative approaches that promote **high levels of recycling. Investments shall** be consistent with the waste hierarchy **established under Directive 2008/98/EC (Waste Framework Directive)**.

5.3 Promotion of equality between men and women and non-discrimination

- 1.** In accordance with Article 7 **of this Regulation**, Member States shall pursue the objective of equality between men and women and **shall** take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination and to ensure accessibility during the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of operations in the programmes co-financed by the CSF Funds. When pursuing the objectives of Article 7 **of this Regulation**, Member States shall describe [...] actions to be taken, in particular with regard to selection of operations, setting of objectives for interventions, and arrangements for monitoring and reporting. Member States shall also carry out gender analyses where appropriate.

2. Member States shall ensure, **in accordance with Articles 5 and 7 of this Regulation**, the participation of the relevant bodies responsible for promoting gender equality, non-discrimination and accessibility in the partnership, and ensure adequate structures in accordance with national practices to advise on gender equality, non-discrimination and accessibility in order to provide the necessary expertise in the preparation, monitoring and evaluation of the CSF Funds. [...]
3. Managing authorities shall [...] undertake [...] evaluations or self-assessment exercises, in coordination with the monitoring committees, focusing on the application of the gender mainstreaming principle.
4. Member States shall address, in an appropriate manner, the needs of disadvantaged groups in order to allow them to better integrate into the labour market, and **thereby facilitate their full participation** in society.

B. Cross-cutting policy objectives

5.4 Accessibility

1. **Member States and the Commission shall take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination based on disability in accordance with Article 7 of this Regulation.** Managing authorities shall ensure **by means of action throughout the programmes lifecycles** that all products, goods, services and infrastructures that are open or provided to the public and are co-financed by the CSF Funds are accessible to all citizens including those with disabilities **in accordance with national legislation**. In particular, accessibility to the physical environment, transport, information and communication technologies in order to **promote** inclusion **of** disadvantaged groups, including persons with disabilities, **shall** be ensured. [...]

5.5 Addressing demographic change

1. The challenges resulting from demographic change shall be taken into account at all levels. Member States shall [...] make use of the CSF Funds, **in line with relevant national or regional strategies where such strategies are in place**, to tackle demographic problems and to create growth linked to an ageing society.
2. Member States shall use the CSF Funds, **in line with relevant national or regional strategies** [...] to facilitate inclusion of all age groups. They shall in particular enhance job opportunities for the elderly and young people. Investments in health infrastructures shall serve the goal of a long and healthy working life for all of the Union's citizens.
3. **To address challenges** in the regions most affected by demographic change, Member States shall **in particular** identify measures to:
 - (a) support demographic renewal through better conditions for families and an improved balance between working and family life;
 - (b) boost employment, raise productivity and economic performance through investing in education, ICT and research **and innovation**;
 - (c) focus on the adequacy and quality of education and social support structures;
 - (d) **promote** cost-effective provision of health care and long-term care including investment in e-health, e-care and infrastructure.

5.6 Climate change mitigation and adaptation

1. **In accordance with Article 8 of this Regulation** climate change mitigation and adaptation and risk prevention shall be integrated in the preparation and [...] implementation [...] **of Partnership Agreements and programmes**.

[...]

6. Coordination of CSF Funds with other Union Policies and Instruments

The coordination by Member States envisaged by this section shall apply in so far as a Member State intends to make use of support from the CSF Funds and other Union instruments in the relevant policy area. The Union programmes set out in this section do not constitute an exhaustive list.

6.1 Introduction

1. Member States **and the Commission shall, in accordance with their respective responsibilities, take into consideration** the impact of Union policies at national and regional level, and on social, economic and territorial cohesion with a view to fostering effective coordination and to identifying and promoting the most suitable means of using European funds to support local, regional and national investment.
2. Member States **and the Commission** shall, **in accordance with their respective responsibilities** ensure **coordination between the CSF Funds and other relevant Union instruments at European and Member State level, in accordance with Article 4(6) of this Regulation. They shall ensure** consistency at programming and implementation stages between interventions supported by the CSF Funds and the objectives of other Union policies. To this end, they shall seek to take into account the following aspects:
 - (a) **enhancing** [...] complementarities **and synergies** between different Union instruments at **European**, national and regional level, both in the planning phase and during implementation;
 - (b) optimise existing structures and where necessary, establish new ones that facilitate the strategic identification of priorities for the different instruments and structures for coordination at **European and** national level, avoid duplication of effort and identify areas where additional financial support is needed;

- (c) make [...] use of the potential to combine support from different instruments to support individual operations and work closely with those responsible for **implementation at European and national level** to deliver coherent and streamlined funding opportunities for beneficiaries.

6.2 Coordination with the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy

1. The EAFRD is an integral part of the Common Agricultural Policy and complements the measures under the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund which provide direct support to farmers and support market measures. Member States shall therefore manage these interventions together to maximise synergies and the added value of EU support.
2. The EMFF aims at achieving the objectives of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy and of the Integrated Maritime Policy. Member States shall therefore make use of the EMFF to support efforts to improve data collection and strengthen control, and ensure that synergies are also sought in support of the priorities of Integrated Maritime Policy, such as marine knowledge, maritime spatial planning, integrated coastal zone management, integrated maritime surveillance, the protection of the marine environment and of biodiversity, and the adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change on coastal areas.

6.3 Horizon 2020¹ and other centrally managed EU programmes in the areas of research and innovation

1. Member States and the Commission shall pay attention to strengthening coordination and complementarities between the CSF Funds and Horizon 2020, the Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (COSME)², and other relevant centrally managed Union funding programmes while also establishing a clear division of areas of intervention between them.

¹ COM(2011) 809 final.

² COM(2011) 834 final.

2. [...] Member States shall develop national and/or regional research and innovation (R&I) **strategic policy frameworks** for ‘smart specialisation’ in line with the National Reform Programme, **where appropriate**. These **frameworks** shall be developed through involving national or regional managing authorities and stakeholders such as universities and other higher education institutions, industry and social partners in an entrepreneurial discovery process. The authorities directly concerned by Horizon 2020 shall be closely associated to this process. [...] **These frameworks shall include [...]**:
- (a) "Upstream actions" to prepare regional R&I players to participate in Horizon 2020 ("staircase to excellence") **to** be developed, **where necessary**, through capacity building. Communication and cooperation between Horizon 2020 national contact points and managing authorities of the CSF Funds shall be strengthened.
 - (b) "Downstream actions" shall provide the means to exploit and diffuse R&I results, stemming from Horizon 2020 and preceding programmes, into the market with particular attention on creating an innovation-friendly business environment for SMEs and in line with the priorities identified for the territories in the relevant smart specialisation strategy.
3. Member States shall **consider how to** make [...] use of the provisions in this Regulation allowing for combining the CSF Funds with those under Horizon 2020 in the relevant programmes used to implement parts of the **strategic frameworks**. Joint support shall be provided to national and regional authorities for the design and implementation of such strategies, to identify opportunities for joint financing of R&I infrastructures of European interest, the promotion of international collaboration, methodological support through peer reviews, exchange of good practice, and training across regions.
4. Member States shall consider the following additional measures aimed at unlocking their potential for excellence in research and innovation, in a manner that is complementary to and creates synergies with Horizon 2020, in particular through joint funding:
- (a) linking emerging centres of excellence and innovative regions in less developed Member States to leading counterparts elsewhere in Europe;

- (b) building links with innovative clusters and recognising excellence in less developed regions;
- (c) establishing "ERA Chairs" to attract [...] academics **of established excellence**, in particular to less developed regions;
- (d) supporting access to international networks for researchers and innovators who are less involved in the ERA or from less developed regions;
- (e) contributing as appropriate to the European Innovation Partnerships;
- (f) preparing national institutions and/or clusters of excellence for participation in the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT);
- (g) hosting high-quality international researcher mobility programmes with co-funding from the "Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions".

6.4 New Entrants Reserve (NER) 300 demonstration funding¹

- 1.** Member States shall ensure [...] that financing from the CSF Funds is coordinated with support from the NER 300 Programme, which uses the revenues from auctioning 300 million allowances reserved under the new entrants reserve of the European Emissions Trading Scheme to co-finance a wide range of large-scale demonstration projects of carbon capture and storage (CCS) as well as of innovative renewables technologies across the EU.

¹ OJ L 290, 6.11.2010, p. 39–48 2010/670/EU: Commission Decision of 3 November 2010 laying down criteria and measures for the financing of commercial demonstration projects that aim at the environmentally safe capture and geological storage of CO₂ as well as demonstration projects of innovative renewable energy technologies under the scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Community established by Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (2010/670/EU) OJ L 275, 25.10.2003, p. 32–46.

6.5 LIFE¹ and the environmental acquis

1. Member States **and the Commission** shall [...] seek to exploit synergies with Union policy instruments (both funding and non-funding instruments) serving climate change mitigation and adaptation, environmental protection and resource efficiency.
2. Member States shall [...] **promote** complementarity and coordination with LIFE, in particular with **integrated projects** in the areas of nature, water, waste, air, climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation. This coordination shall be achieved **through measures such as** [...] promoting the funding of activities through the CSF Funds that complement **integrated projects** under the LIFE Programme as well as by promoting the use of solutions, methods and approaches validated under the LIFE Programme.
3. The relevant sectoral plans, programmes or strategies (including the Prioritised Action Framework, the River Basin Management Plan, the Waste Management Plan, the [...] mitigation plan or adaptation strategy [...] **may** serve as the coordination framework, **where** support **is foreseen for these areas**.

6.6 ERASMUS for All²

1. Member States **shall** seek to use CSF Funds to mainstream tools and methods developed and tested successfully under "Erasmus for All".
2. Member States shall **promote** effective coordination between CSF Funds and 'Erasmus for All' at national level through a clear distinction in the types of investment and target groups supported. Member States shall seek complementarity with regards to the funding of mobility actions [...].

¹ COM(2011) 874 final.

² COM(2011) 788 final.

[...] Coordination shall be achieved by putting in place appropriate cooperation mechanisms between managing authorities and the national agencies established under the ‘Erasmus for All’ programme.

6.7 Programme for Social Change and Innovation (PSCI)¹

1. Member States shall [...] seek effective coordination between the Programme for Social Change and Innovation and the support provided by the CSF Funds under the employment and social inclusion thematic objectives.
2. Member States shall [...] seek to scale-up the most successful measures developed under the progress axis of the PSCI, notably on social innovation and social policy experimentation with the support of the ESF.
3. In order to promote workers' geographical mobility and boost employment opportunities, Member States shall **seek** complementarity of actions to enhance transnational labour mobility supported by the ESF, including cross-border partnerships, with support provided under the EURES axis of the PSCI.
4. Member States shall seek complementarity and coordination between CSF Funds' support for self-employment, entrepreneurship, business creation and social enterprises and the PSCI support under the micro finance and social entrepreneurship axis aimed at increasing the access to micro finance for people furthest away from the labour market and for micro-enterprises as well as supporting the development of social enterprises.

¹ COM(2011)609 final

6.8 Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)¹

1. [...] To maximise European added value in **the fields of transport, telecommunication and energy**, Member States and the Commission shall ensure that ERDF and Cohesion Fund interventions are planned in close cooperation with the support provided from the CEF, so as to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure **the optimal linkage** of different types of infrastructure at local, regional and national levels, and across the Union [...]. Maximum leverage of the different funding instruments shall be ensured for projects with a European and Single Market dimension, and in particular those projects implementing the priority transport, energy and digital infrastructure networks as identified in the respective TEN policy frameworks.
2. In the field of transport, **investment planning** shall be based on real and projected transport demand and identify missing links and bottlenecks, taking into account the development of Union cross border links, and developing links across regions within a Member State. Investments **in regional connectivity to the comprehensive trans-European transport network (TEN-T) and to the core TEN-T network** shall ensure that urban and rural areas benefit from the opportunities created by major networks.
3. Prioritisation of investments which have an impact beyond a certain Member State, particularly **those which are part of** the core TEN-T network corridors, shall be coordinated with TEN-T planning and core network corridors implementation plans, so that investments by the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund in transport infrastructure are fully in line with the TEN-T Guidelines.

¹ COM(2011) 665 final.

4. [...] **Member States shall** focus on sustainable forms of transport and sustainable urban mobility as well as investing in areas that offer the greatest European added value. Once identified, investments shall be prioritised according to their contribution to mobility, sustainability, to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and to the Single European Transport Area. Member States **may** take into account the Commission's White Paper on Transport¹ which sets out a vision for a competitive and resource-efficient transport system, highlighting that a significant reduction in greenhouse gases is required in the transport sector.
5. The CSF Funds shall deliver the local and regional infrastructures and their linkages to the priority Union networks in the energy and telecommunication areas.
6. Member States and the Commission shall put in place appropriate coordination and technical support mechanisms to ensure the complementarity and effective planning of ICT measures to make full use of the different Union instruments (CSF Funds CEF, Trans-European networks, Horizon 2020) for the financing of broadband networks and the digital service infrastructures. The selection of the most appropriate financing instrument shall take into account the revenue generating potential of the operation and its level of risk in order to make the most effective use of public funds. [...] **Member States may, in the context of their evaluation of applications for support by the CSF Funds, take into consideration the evaluations of operations relating to their specific Member State that have been submitted for CEF but not selected, without prejudice to the final selection decision by the managing authority.**

¹ Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area – Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system” COM 2011) 144 final.

6.9 IPA, ENI and EDF¹

1. Member States and the Commission shall, **in accordance with their respective responsibilities**, seek to increase coordination between external instruments and the CSF Funds to improve effectiveness in achieving multiple Union policy objectives. Coordination and complementarities with the European Development Fund, the Pre Accession Instrument and the European Neighbourhood Instrument is particularly important.
2. To support deeper territorial integration, Member States shall seek to capitalise on synergies between territorial cooperation activities under cohesion policy and the European Neighbourhood Instruments, in particular with regard to cross border cooperation activities. [...]

7. [...] Cooperation Activities

7.1 Coordination and complementarity

1. Member States shall seek complementarity between cooperation activities and other actions supported by the CSF Funds.
2. Member States shall ensure that cooperation activities make an effective contribution to the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy and that cooperation is organised in support of wider policy goals. To achieve this Member States and **the Commission** shall, **in accordance with their respective responsibilities**, ensure complementarity and coordination with other Union-funded programmes or instruments.
3. To reinforce the effectiveness of Cohesion Policy, Member States shall seek coordination and complementarity between the European Territorial Cooperation and the "Investment for Growth and Jobs goal" programmes, in particular to ensure coherent planning and facilitate the implementation of large-scale investment.

¹ COM(2011) 838 final; COM(2011) 839 final; COM(2011) 837 final.

4. Member States shall, where appropriate, ensure that the objectives of macro-regional and sea-basin strategies form part of the overall strategic planning, in **Partnership Agreements, in accordance with Article 14 (2) of this Regulation, and in [...] operational** programmes in the regions and Member States concerned **in accordance with the relevant Articles of the Fund specific rules**. Member States shall **seek also to** ensure that where macro-regional and sea basin strategies have been put in place, [...] the CSF Funds [...] support their implementation **in accordance with Article 14(2) and the relevant Articles of the Fund specific rules and in line with the needs of the programme area identified by the Member States**. To ensure efficient implementation there shall also be coordination with other Union-funded instruments as well as other relevant instruments.
5. Member States shall, where appropriate, make use of the possibility to carry out interregional and transnational actions with beneficiaries located in at least one other Member State within the framework of the operational programmes under the "Investment for Growth and Jobs goal", including the implementation of relevant research and innovation measures emanating from smart specialization strategies.

7.2 Cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation under the ERDF

1. **Member States and regions shall seek to make use of cooperation to achieve critical mass, inter alia, in the field of ICT and research and innovation, and also to promote the development of joint smart specialization approaches and partnerships among educational institutions. Interregional cooperation shall, where appropriate, include fostering cooperation between innovative research-intensive clusters and exchanges between research institutions taking into consideration the experience of "Regions of Knowledge" and "Research Potential in Convergence and Outermost Regions" under the Seventh Framework Programme for Research.**

- 2. Member States and regions shall, in the areas concerned, seek to draw on cross-border and transnational cooperation to:**
- a) ensure that areas that share major geographical features (islands, lakes, rivers, sea basins or mountain ranges) support the joint management and promotion of their natural resources;**
 - b) exploit the economies of scale that can be achieved, in particular with regard to investment related to the shared use of common public services;**
 - c) promote coherent planning and development of cross-border network infrastructure, in particular missing cross-border links, and environmentally friendly and interoperable transport modes in larger geographical areas;**
 - c a) achieve critical mass, particularly in the field of research and innovation and ICT, education and in relation to measures improving the competitiveness of SMEs.**
 - d) strengthen cross-border labour market services to foster the mobility of workers across borders;**
 - e) improve cross-border governance.**
- 3. Member States and regions shall seek to make use of interregional cooperation to reinforce the effectiveness of Cohesion Policy by encouraging exchange of experience between regions and cities to enhance design and implementation of programmes under the Investment for Growth and Jobs goal and the European Territorial Cooperation goal.**

7.3 Contribution of mainstream programmes to macro-regional and sea-basin strategies

- 1. In accordance with Articles 14 (2) (a) (iii) and the relevant Articles of the Fund specific rules Member States shall seek to ensure successful mobilisation of EU funding for macro-regional and sea-basin strategies in line with the needs of the programme area identified by the Member States. This can be done, among other actions, by prioritising operations deriving from these strategies by organising specific calls for them or giving priority to these operations in the selection process through identification of operations which can be jointly financed from different programmes.**
- 2. Member States shall consider making use of relevant transnational programmes as frameworks to support the range of policies and funds needed to implement macro-regional and sea-basin strategies.**
- 3. Member States shall promote, where appropriate, the use of CSF Funds in the context of macro-regional strategies, for the creation of European transport corridors, including supporting modernisation of customs; the prevention, preparedness and response to natural disasters, water management at river basin level, green infrastructure, integrated maritime cooperation across borders and sectors, R&I and ICT networks and management of shared marine resources in the sea basin and protection of marine biodiversity.**

7.4 Transnational cooperation under the ESF

- 1. Member States shall seek to address areas identified in the relevant Council recommendations in order to maximize mutual learning.**
- 2. Member States shall, where appropriate, select the themes for transnational activities and establish appropriate implementation mechanisms in accordance with their specific needs.**