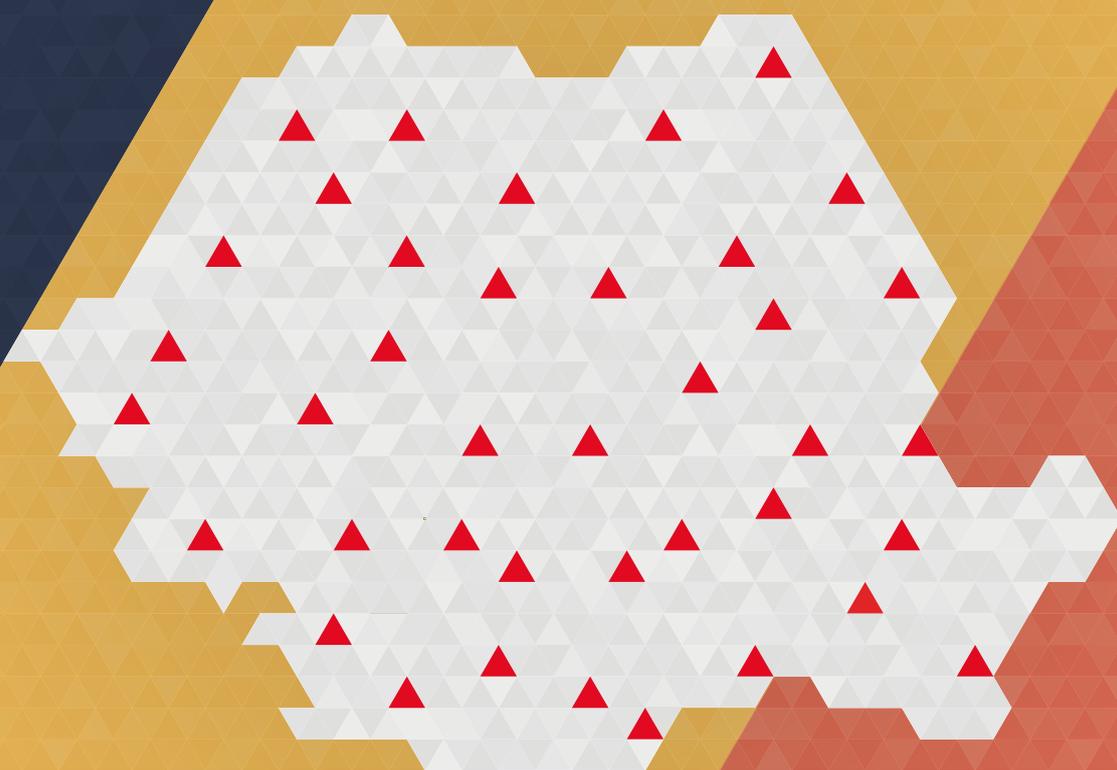


ROMANIA CATCHING-UP REGIONS

FINAL REPORT



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FINAL REPORT

December 2019



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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
URBAN AREAS AS ENGINES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND NEED FOR INTER-JURISDICTIONAL COOPERATION	7
EXPRESSED DEMAND FOR INTER-JURISDICTIONAL CO-OPERATION IN ROMANIA	11
LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK	19
MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL COOPERATION MODELS	23
FISCAL INSTRUMENTS	33
More resource allocation – above 6% of ERDF	38
More resource concentration	38
More resources for FUAs	40
More thematic diversity	42
TOWARDS A SUD 2021-2027 APPROACH	43
CONCLUSION	65
ANNEX 1. Potential areas/sectors for inter-jurisdictional cooperation in Romania	68
ANNEX 2: Areas/sectors with multi-jurisdictional impact identified by a selection of sub-national authorities in Romania	72
ANNEX 3: Identification of Interventions Fields relevant for Romanian Cities, from the draft Cohesion Policy 2021-2027	76

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 1. NUTS 2 regions classified by Cohesion Policy category (left) and Lagging Region category (right)	4
FIGURE 2. Urban areas and votes received under “Your City’s Priorities Campaign”	14
FIGURE 3. Bucharest-Ilfov Metropolitan Area Projects	15
FIGURE 4. Local administration answers to the question: Would you be OK with having EU funds allocated for inter-jurisdictional projects?	17
FIGURE 5. Organizational models for inter-jurisdictional cooperation in EU countries	25
FIGURE 6. Allocations (€ mil. and % of ERDF) and implementation mechanisms for SUD 2014-2020	35
FIGURE 7. Average SUD allocation per urban area in EU countries for 2014-2020	39
FIGURE 8. How the 39 county residences prefer to access regional development funds for 2021-2027	45

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1. Areas/sectors with inter-jurisdictional impact in Romani	16
TABLE 2. Investment needs by sector in Romania (in million Euro)	37
TABLE 3. Proposed SUD allocations for 2021-2029	41
TABLE 4. Minimum ERDF allocations by Policy Objective, for Romania, for the 2021-2027 Programming Period	46
TABLE 5. Portfolio of mature projects for the current 39 SUD urban areas, by region	46
TABLE 6. Portfolio of mature projects for the current 39 SUD urban areas, by policy objective	47
TABLE 7. Minimum ESF+ allocations for Romania, for the 2021-2027 Programming Period	47
TABLE 8. Split of Cohesion Fund allocations for Romania, for 2021-2027	48
TABLE 9. Proposed allocation of ROP funds by region	50
TABLE 10. Proposed urban development allocations (in Euro) by region	51
TABLE 11. Regional share of people living in urban settlements, by categories	51
TABLE 12. Regional allocation (in Euro) for urban settlements and functional urban areas	52
TABLE 13. Proposal of ROPs allocations for county residences	53
TABLE 14. Proposal for ROPs allocations for other municipalities	58
TABLE 15. Porposal for ROPs allocations for towns	64

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AA	Administrative Agreement
AFM	Environment Fund Administration
ANFP	National Public Functionaries Agency
ANI	National Land Improvement Agency
ANL	National Housing Agency
ANOFM	National Employment Agency
CLLD	Community-Led Local Development
CNI	National Investment Company
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ESF	European Social Fund
ESFI	European Fund for Strategic Investments
ESIF	European Structural and Investment Funds
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESPON	European Spatial Observation Network
EU	European Union
FS	Feasibility Study
FUA	Functional Urban Area
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information System
GoR	Government of Romania
IB	Intermediate Body
IDA	Intercommunity Development Association
ITI	Integrated Territorial Investment
IUDP	Integrated Urban Development Plans
IUDS	Integrated Urban Development Strategy
JRC	Joint Research Center
LAG	Local Action Group
MA	Managing Authority
MC	Ministry of Culture
MEN	Ministry of Education
MS	Ministry of Health
MPWDA	Ministry of Public Works, Development and Administration (former MRDPA)
MRDPA	Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration (current MPWDA)
MT	Ministry of Tourism
MWSJ	Ministry of Work and Social Justice
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PNCDI	National Research & Development and Innovation Program
PNDL	National Local Development Program
PUG	General Spatial Plan (Plan Urbanistic General)
PUZ	Zonal Urban Plan (Plan Urbanistic Zonal)
RAS	Reimbursable Advisory Services Agreement
RDA	Regional Development Agency
ROP	Regional Operational Programme
SUD	Sustainable Urban Development
SUMP	Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan
TAU	Territorial Administrative Unit
TF	Trust Fund
TP	Technical Project
UA	Urban Authority
WB	World Bank

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INTRODUCTION

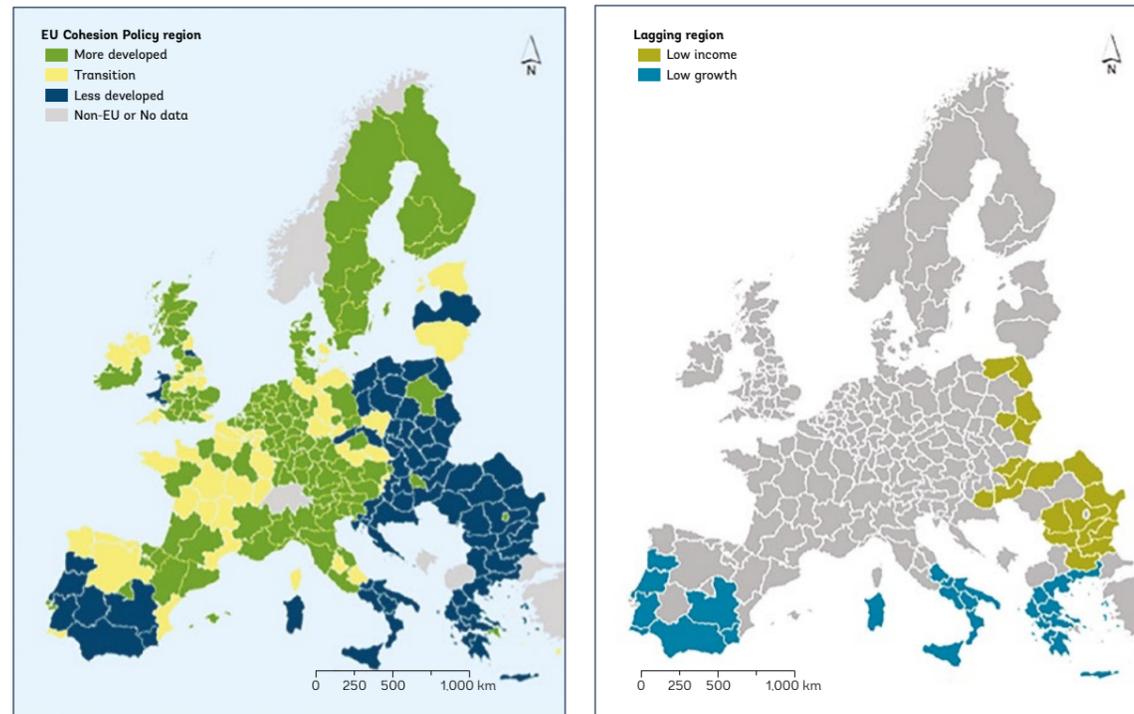
The mandate of the EU Cohesion's Policy is to narrow development gaps and reduce disparities between member countries and regions whilst supporting the European Union's growth agenda more generally. Around €454 billion of European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds have been allocated to help EU regions become more competitive in the 2014-2020 Programming Period, with a focus on less developed regions [with a GDP per capita (PPS) of less than 75% of the EU average] and transition regions [with a GDP per capita (PPS) between 75% and 90% of the EU average]. However, not all EU regions have been able to fully take advantage of the benefits, due inter alia to the effects of the 2008 economic crisis and structural problems.

Consequently, Ms. Corina Crețu, the Commissioner for Regional Policy, with the Task Force for Better Implementation, initiated the Lagging Regions Initiative to identify growth constraints in less developed regions, and provide targeted assistance and programs to foster growth. Thus, lagging regions development support is offered to a broad range of stakeholders [regional and local administrations, educational institutions, business support institutions, small-and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), entrepreneurs, investors, non-governmental organizations, international financing institutions]. It is meant to maximize the impact of regional investments. Two types of lagging regions were identified in the EU:

- **LOW GROWTH REGIONS:** cover less developed and transition regions that did not converge to the EU average between the years 2000 and 2013 in member states with a GDP per capita (PPS) below the EU average in 2013. These include almost all the less developed and transition regions of Greece, Italy, Spain, and Portugal.
- **LOW INCOME REGIONS:** cover all the regions with a GDP per capita (PPS) below 50% of the EU average in 2013. This group covers the less developed regions of Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland and Romania.

Poland and Romania were the first countries to pilot this initiative, with two regions each – Świętokrzyskie and Podkarpackie in Poland, and Northwest and Northeast in Romania. Since these first pilot projects, the work has been extended both thematically and geographically (e.g. Slovakia was included in the initiative), with a focus on determining how regions can become more competitive and inclusive.

FIGURE 1.
NUTS 2 regions classified by Cohesion Policy category (left) and Lagging Region category (right)



For the 2021-2027 Programming Period, the European Commission proposed that the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) will have a stronger focus on sustainable urban development (SUD) activities, with Member States having to allocate least 6% of ERDF funds for integrated development in urban areas (Sustainable Urban Development), either through a dedicated operational programme, a dedicated priority axis, within an operational programme, or with the help of tools such as Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) or Community-Led Local Development (CLLD). The European Commission also wants to offer “more incentives for a more effective governance based on partnership, multi-level governance and an integrated place-based approach in its programmes”¹.

Thus, all EU Member Countries, Romania included, have to have a stronger focus on cross-sectoral and inter-jurisdictional approaches, and they have to better respond to the needs of territories that may not be defined by one clear administrative boundary.

In pursuance of this and to guide design of the Sustainable Urban Development in the 2021-2027 Programming Period, the World Bank undertook extensive research that covers the following areas:

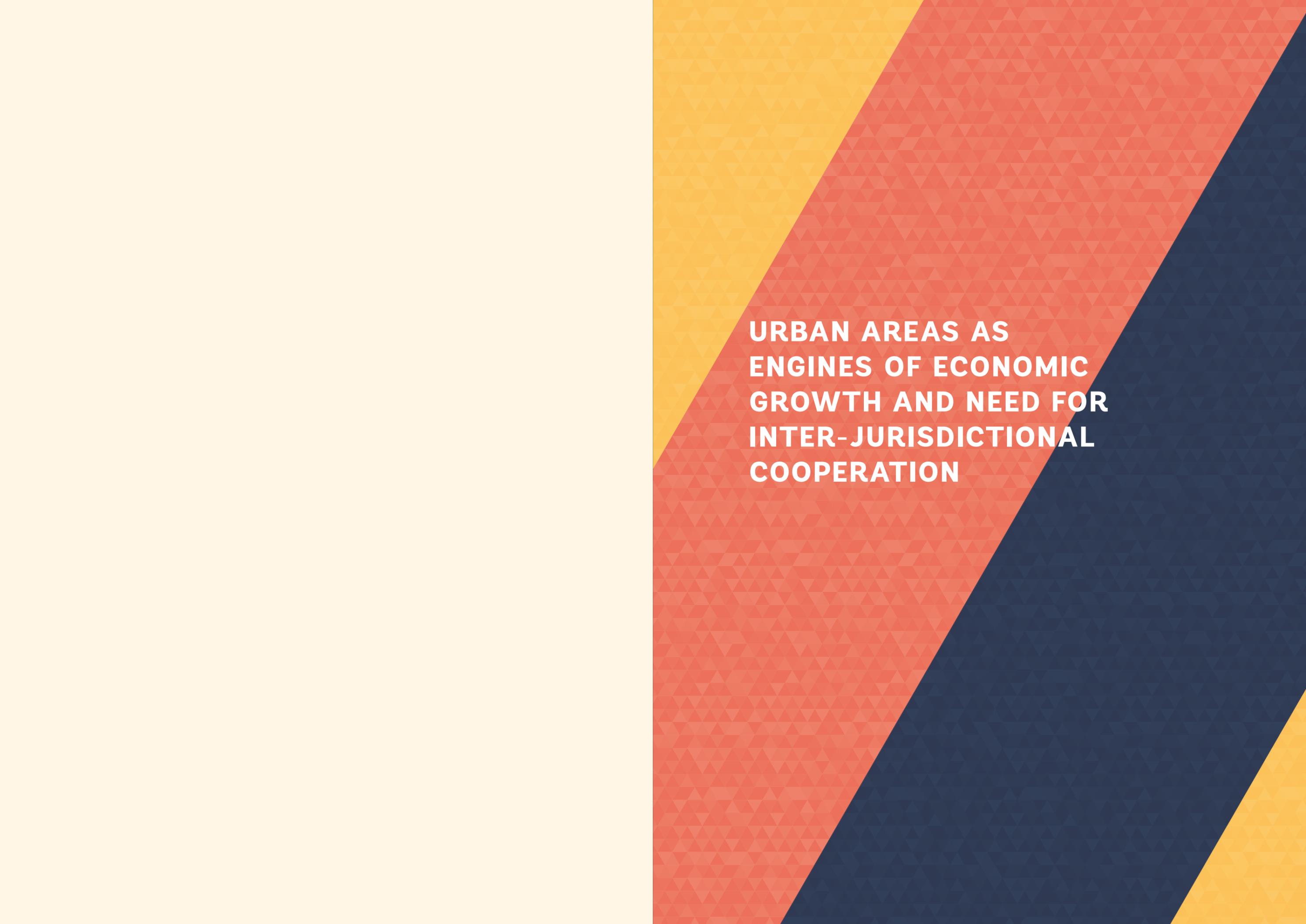
- **Output 2. Sectors for inter-jurisdictional cooperation:** Identification of intervention areas/sectors, in which there could be intrinsic added value for channeling EU funding through municipalities, FUA /metropolitan and/or regional associative bodies (such as IDAs, RDAs etc.) in place of, or in addition to national authorities responsible for functions

such as health, tourism, energy, education, social services, urban and metropolitan/ regional transport, competitiveness and support for SMEs and innovation, etc.

- **Output 3. Inter-jurisdictional cooperation models:** Analysis of the need for an overall or sector specific forms of territorial cooperation (such as metropolitan IDAs, project-oriented partnerships between TAUs, etc.), for instances in which EU funding could be organized at the subnational level. These forms of cooperation could come to complement or supplement the current model used for EU funding, which focuses only on the administrative territory of the eligible county seats.
- **Output 4. Organizational models for inter-jurisdictional agreements:** If the opportunity for such an intercommunity or regional model is confirmed for any of the intervention areas/sectors under analysis, the report identified suitable organizational models (for example, establishing a new intercommunity association or making use of an existing one, or ad-hoc initiatives, such as a partnership agreement for a certain investment project) for each of the intervention areas/sectors.
- **Output 5. Strategic requirements for organizational models:** In case EU funding is proposed on a new, alternative organizational model, different from the ones already existing in Romania and based on international best practices, establish the implications for:
 - i. Integrated urban development strategies/plans;
 - ii. Strengthen administrative capacity, at different levels;
 - iii. Integrated financial arrangements;
 - iv. Decentralization; and
 - v. Identification of risks and associated mitigation measures.

This report synthesizes the key takeaways and recommendations from each of these reports, and comes with a set of additional proposals, using also additional data and information collected in the interim.

¹European Commission. 2018. *Policy Objective 5 – Europe Closer to Citizens and Tools for Integrated Territorial Development [Policy Paper]*.



**URBAN AREAS AS
ENGINES OF ECONOMIC
GROWTH AND NEED FOR
INTER-JURISDICTIONAL
COOPERATION**

Analytical work undertaken in recent years², indicates that the performance of regions in the EU is clearly linked to the performance of urban areas within the region. The most dynamic EU regions either have one or more metropolitan areas or urban agglomerations within their boundaries, or they are close to one in another region. Without strong urban areas, one cannot have strong regions. Cities function as pulse beacons, diffusing development to the areas around them.

Strong cities are not enough though. To ensure that the benefits of city development also spill over to the urban hinterland, it is critical to devise and encourage inter-jurisdictional cooperation and development. Few urban investments nowadays have impact only on one administrative unit, so provisions should be in place for inter-jurisdictional planning and implementation. For example, the suburban and peri-urban areas of Bucharest and the 40 county capitals generate 90% of firm revenues in the country, have attracted 66% of migrants, and have received 64% of new housing units after 1990. However, little has been done to foster inter-jurisdictional dynamics between core cities and their suburban and peri-urban areas (e.g. metropolitan mobility, cross-jurisdictional investments, sharing of services).

For the 2021-2027 Programming Period, the European Commission proposed that the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) will have a stronger focus on sustainable urban development (SUD) activities, with Member States having to allocate least 6% of ERDF funds for integrated development in urban areas (Sustainable Urban Development), either through a dedicated operational programme, a dedicated priority axis, within an operational programme, or with the help of tools such as Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) or Community-Led Local Development (CLLD). The European Commission also wants to offer “more incentives for a more effective governance based on partnership, multi-level governance and an integrated place-based approach in its programmes”³.

Thus, all EU Member Countries, Romania included, need to have a stronger focus on cross-sectoral and inter-jurisdictional approaches, and they have to better respond to the needs of territories that may not be defined by one clear administrative boundary.

² See for example: Thomas Farole, Soraya Goga, and Marcel Ionescu-Heroiu. 2018. *Rethinking Lagging Regions: Using Cohesion Policy to Deliver on the Potential of Europe's Regions*. World Bank Publications.

³ European Commission. 2018. *Policy Objective 5 – Europe Closer to Citizens and Tools for Integrated Territorial Development [Policy Paper]*.

Development challenges and opportunities do not confine themselves to neat administrative boundaries, especially as economic, social and ecological interactions become increasingly inter-woven. This, together with a recognition that some of the assets necessary to sustain urban economies, such as public transport, value chains, ecological assets, etc., tend to be networked and function better as such, rather than as disparate components – necessitates a co-operative approach.

OECD countries, have, over time responded to this challenge by creating multiple administrative tiers of local level governments seeking to balance proximity to citizens and metropolitan level management. An observation of these countries reveals variation with most having as much as 3 levels of local government⁴, i.e. Croatia has 21 counties, 128 cities, 428 municipalities (groups of villages); Germany has 329 counties, 115 county-free cities, and 14,915 communities. The key differentiators between these appear to be functionality (urban vs. rural) and population size with wide variations in the number of administrative tiers; for instance, Spain has 2 levels of local government made up of as much as 8,111 municipalities.

These multiple administrative tiers have been co-operating across a range of sectoral/development areas. The 2014 OECD study⁵ looked at 263 metropolitan areas, and for 178 areas that had a metropolitan governance body in place, it identified the key areas/sectors covered by the governance body and found that 81% were working on regional development with the main activity being promotion of the local economy; 78% were on transport with a primary focus on roads, 67% on spatial planning, 35% of the 178 inter-jurisdictional governance bodies cooperated on solid waste management and 35% and 26% respectively on water and waste water. Social development aspects such as culture and leisure accounted for 29%, while a few cooperated on education and health – driven primarily by provision of higher order services such as universities and regional hospitals. Interestingly, only 15% cooperated on energy, likely because this is often a privately provided service.

Forms of co-operation also vary, allowing flexibility and maturity of cooperation instruments over time. These range from voluntary co-operation to consolidation, such as the neighborhoods of Vinohrady, Žižkov, Karlín, or Letná which used to be stand-alone towns and eventually became part of the City of Prague.

EXPRESSED DEMAND FOR INTER-JURISDICTIONAL CO-OPERATION IN ROMANIA

⁴ Source: World Development Report, 2000

⁵ OECD, 2014. The OECD Governance Survey: A Quantitative Description of Governance Structures in large Urban Agglomerations.

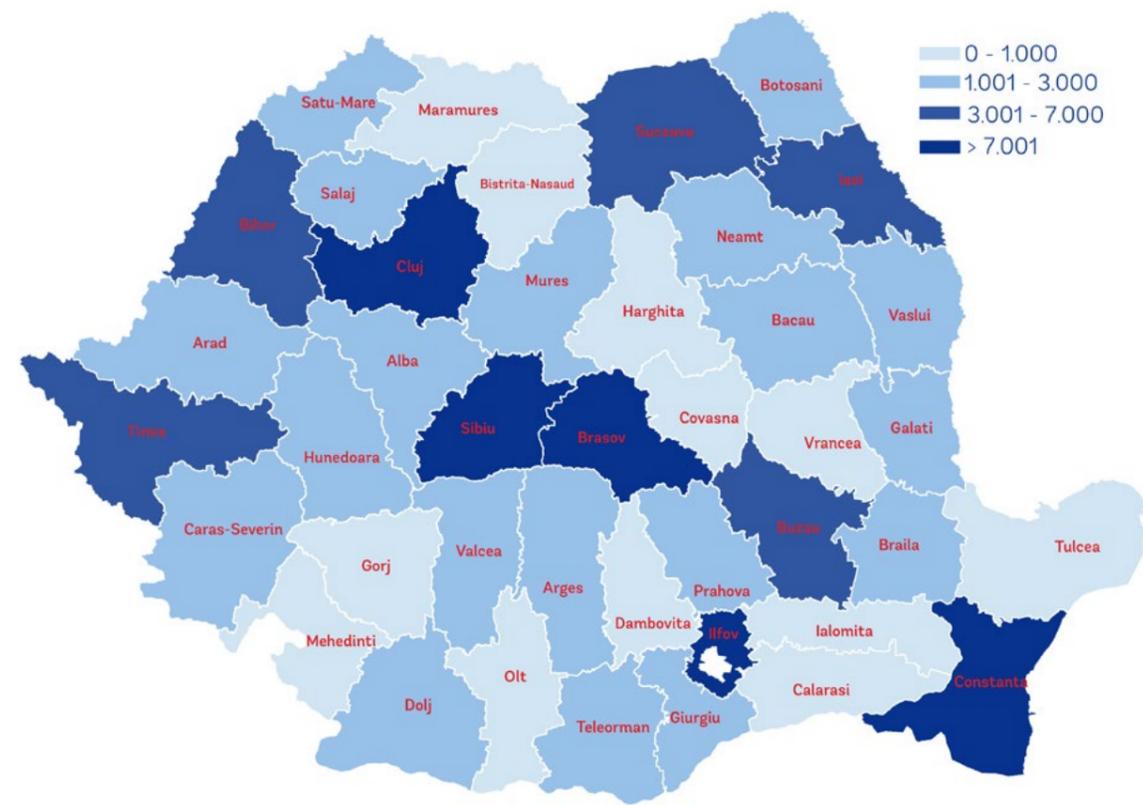
Romania has a history of inter-jurisdictional co-operation with the first metropolitan inter-communal development associations (IDAs) being established in the early 2000s. Today, there are approximately 41 such IDAs covering a range of project areas and investment sizes.

In order to better understand and contribute to the refinement of inter-jurisdictional cooperation models in Romania and ascertain if demand still exists, the World Bank, together with the Romanian National Federation of Metropolitan Areas and Urban Agglomerations (FZMAUR), undertook a unique engagement of sub-national administrations and citizens at the beginning of 2019, to identify a list of priority projects with inter-jurisdictional impact, for the urban areas of Bucharest and the 40 county capitals. As part of "Your City's Priorities Campaign", individual letters were sent to (i) the city halls of Bucharest, (ii) the 40 county capitals in Romania, (iii) the 40 county councils, and (iv) the 40 prefectures. The letter asked for a list of up to 10 projects with inter-jurisdictional impact of critical importance for their respective urban area. In addition to the potential of inter-jurisdictional impact, the projects had to respect three criteria:

- Be included in an existent strategy or plan – at the local, county, or national level.
- Have a minimum value, adjusted to the financial capacity of each core city (i.e. at least 10% of the estimated capital investment budget for 2014-2023).
- Do not have secured funding.

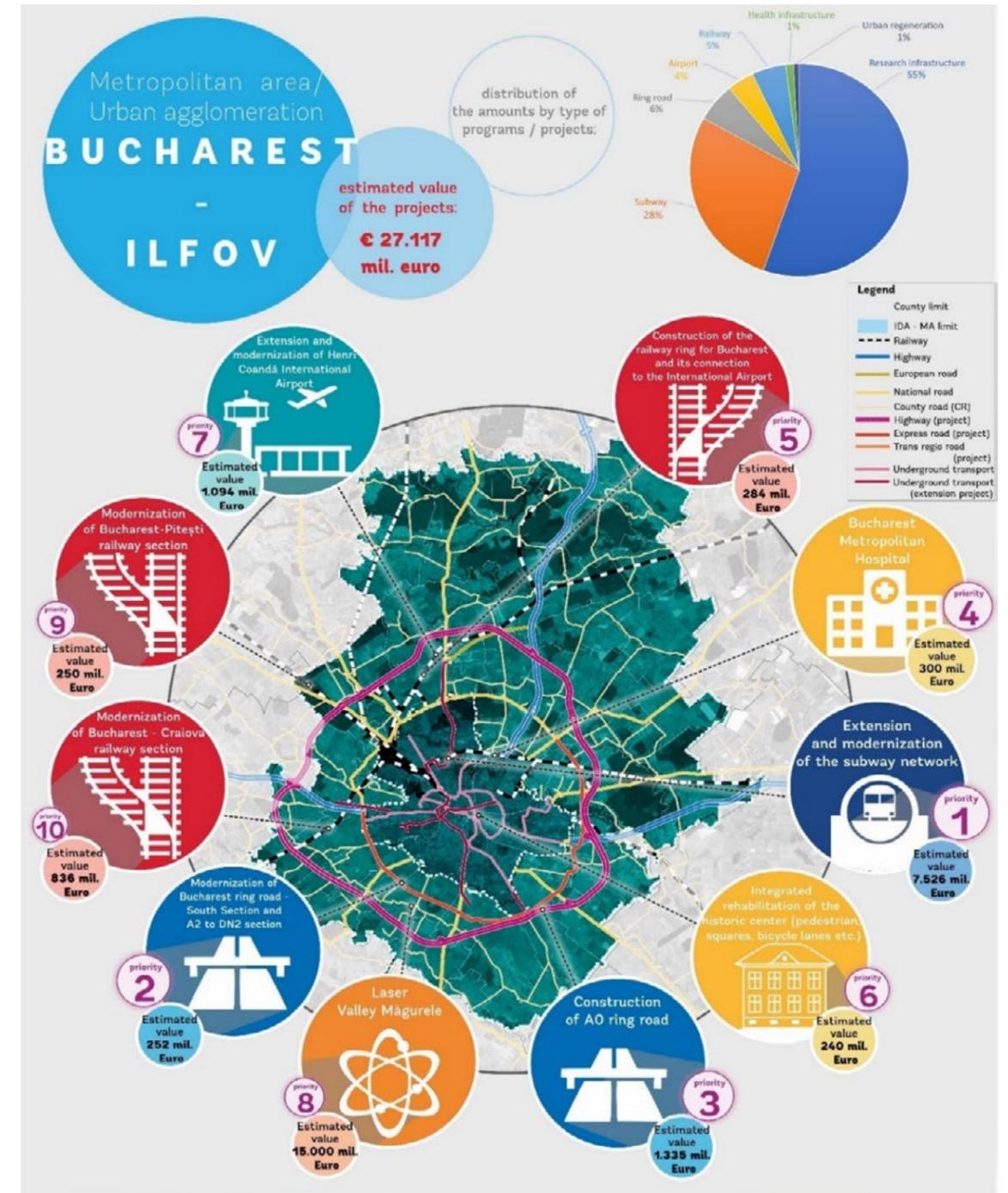
The response to this was overwhelming, as depicted in figure 2 below.

FIGURE 2. Urban areas and votes received under “Your City’s Priorities Campaign”



In value, Tulcea had the lowest value of proposed metropolitan interventions, at 50 million Euro for 2 projects. The Bucharest-Ilfov metropolitan area had the highest value of proposed metropolitan interventions, at 27.117 million Euro for the range of projects depicted below.

FIGURE 3. Bucharest-Ilfov Metropolitan Area Projects



The projects that emanated from this initiative coalesced around 7 main themes as depicted in Table 1 hereunder.

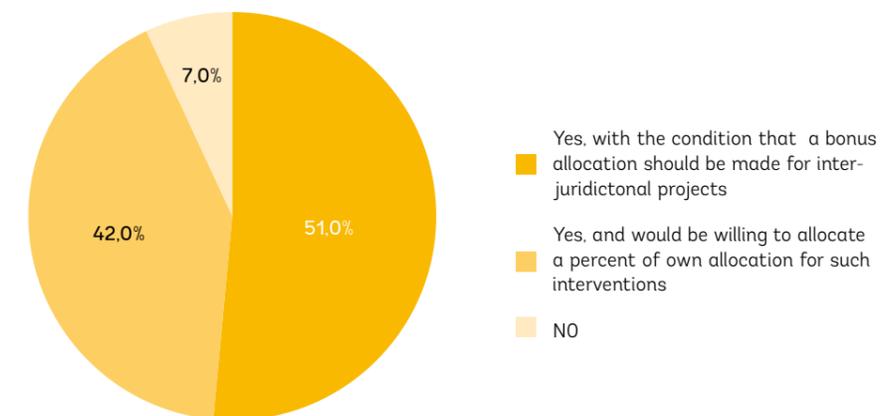
TABLE 1.
Areas/sectors with inter-jurisdictional impact in Romania

THEMATIC AREA	AREA / SECTOR	NUMBER OF PRO-POSED PROJECTS	CUMULATED VALUE OF PROJECTS (MIL. EURO)
Mobility	Road	58	€ 5,427
	Bypass	33	€ 2,669
	Railway	32	€ 11,060
	Airport	17	€ 2,057
	Highway	17	€ 24,471
	Expressways	15	€ 6,128
	Intermodal transport link	12	€ 259
	Public transport	11	€ 232
	Port	9	€ 1,277
	Parking	8	€ 89
	Bridge	8	€ 828
	Railway Station	7	€ 153
	Overpass	7	€ 90
	Water transport	5	€ 614
	Non-motorized transport	3	€ 61
	Underpass	3	€ 112
Bus Station	1	€ 6	
Metro	1	€ 7,526	
Economic	Business infrastructure	22	€ 346
	Research infrastructure	1	€ 15,000
Culture, leisure, recreation and tourism	Sports infrastructure	21	€ 389
	Tourist infrastructure	15	€ 454
	Cultural infrastructure	14	€ 377
Social infrastructure	Educational infrastructure	3	€ 105
	Health Infrastructure	26	€ 3,703
	Housing	1	€ 5
Social Infrastructure	Social Infrastructure	2	€ 21
	District heating	5	€ 89
	Solid waste management	2	€ 61
Physical infrastructure	Public lighting	1	€ 6
	Water and wastewater	1	€ 5
	Gas infrastructure	1	€ 10
Governance	Public administration	1	€ 5
	Administrative infrastructure	1	€ 5
Urban regeneration	Natural patrimony	12	€ 282
	Urban regeneration	11	€ 479

There is evident demand to advance gains made in implementing inter-jurisdictional projects. Of interest to note is the dominance of transport projects, indicative of the daily experiences of residents and the need for more networked urban areas. The next significant theme related to culture, heritage and tourism infrastructure, signaling user-demand and latent tourism potential which respondents sought to optimize across administrative boundaries.

Following this initiative, the World Bank sent requests to all 39 SUD local administrations, to test the appetite for inter-jurisdictional projects. An overwhelming share of respondents are for such projects, and some are even considering using some of their own allocations for such interventions. A number of local government representatives have also sent metropolitan project portfolios – including both inter-jurisdictional projects, and interventions that would be undertaken in neighboring localities.

FIGURE 4.
Local administration answers to the question: Would you be OK with having EU funds allocated for inter-jurisdictional project



Moreover, the Association of Municipalities has taken a clear stance on this issue. For one of its General Assemblies, it has issued its formal position on the 2021-2027 Programming Period, and it has shared and discussed its position with the Ministry of European Funds and the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration (current MPWDA). Some of the key proposals made by the Association of Municipalities include:

- To have the flexibility to choose inter-jurisdictional approaches, and to be able to do so on an ad-hoc basis;
- To have Metropolitan Area Inter-communal Development Associations eligible for EU funding;
- To have flexibility in defining the territory it will focus EU interventions on;
- To have larger allocations for the SUD 2021-2027 than for the current programming period;
- To have decentralization in the management of EU funds, with a preference for 8 regional operational programmes;

- To have assurance of full financing of the reserve projects not financed in this programming period under Axis 4 of the ROP;
- To have EU financial support, as in other EU countries, for the early preparation of technical documentations for planned projects;
- To simplify bureaucratic procedures and reduce administrative burden in the management of EU funds;
- To take into consideration the areas/sectors identified as being most important for local administrations, namely: urban mobility; educational infrastructure, health infrastructure; urban regeneration; energy efficiency; road infrastructure; water and wastewater infrastructure; cultural patrimony and adjacent infrastructure;
- To have a larger pallet of eligible interventions at the local level; and
- To be able to use/update existing strategies/plans (in particular, Integrated Urban Development Strategies and Mobility Plans), rather than having to draft completely new ones.

During a work meeting organized in October 2019 under this project, the Ministry of European Funds, the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration (current MPWDA), and the European Commission expressed the need to have inter-jurisdictional approaches for the 2021-2027 Programming Period. Some of the key proposals made during the meeting include:

- To consider a metropolitan approach for large metropolitan areas, with the flexibility for smaller municipalities to undertake project-based cooperation or metropolitan approaches;
- To allocate additional funds for metropolitan interventions, and to make general allocations based on the population of the functional urban area, given that an intervention in a core city usually also benefits people in suburban and peri-urban areas;
- To limit the burden on municipalities and allow them to update strategic documents, if they were already prepared for the metropolitan areas;
- To identify the key areas/sectors for inter-jurisdictional interventions, such as mobility, education, health, or quality of life infrastructure (e.g. parks, public squares, plazas, pedestrian and bike paths);

The meeting concluded that three major options could be considered for the 2021-2027 Programming Period:

- a. Planning based on the current 39 Article 7 municipalities with the flexibility to involve others;
- b. Planning on an extended area, introducing elements of governance to protect the minority partners; or
- c. Bringing in a strong drive for an extended planning area..

During the meeting, most stakeholders expressed a preference for option (a), from the ones listed above.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The Romanian legal framework provides for inter-jurisdictional cooperation. To further strengthen these, there is a need to look at how some legislation provisions are activated, for instance to enable county seats to form metropolitan areas. More importantly, the elaboration of the national urban policy will need to consider how it reinforces inter-jurisdictional cooperation. Another key area of focus relates to territorial planning legislation and associated requirements.

Romania already has a legislative base of inter-jurisdictional cooperation, such as laws defining metropolitan areas. metropolitan territory and intercommunity development associations (IDA), i.e. as Law no. 215 / 23.04.2001 on local public administration, Law no. 350 / 06.07.2001 on spatial planning and urbanism and Law no. 351 / 06.07.2001 regarding the approval of the National Territory Plan - Section IV - The Network of Localities.

Metropolitan areas and territories were enabled from as far back as 2001, through Laws no. 350 / 06.07.2001 and 351 / 06.07.2001 which created and defined them as:

- *A Metropolitan area is an area established on a voluntary basis between major urban centers (Capital of Romania and 1st rank municipalities – in total 12 cities: Bucharest, Bacău, Braşov, Brăila, Galaţi, Cluj-Napoca, Constanţa, Craiova, Iaşi, Oradea, Ploieşti, and Timişoara) and urban and rural localities in the immediate area, at distances of up to 30 km, between which relations have developed.*
- *Metropolitan territory is the area around large urban agglomerations, delineated by specialized studies, which creates mutual relations of influence in the field of communication, economic, social, cultural and urban infrastructure. As a rule, the metropolitan territory limit exceeds the administrative limit of the locality and may exceed the boundary of the county to which it belongs.*

In order to ensure balanced development, county seats (especially around Bucharest) were enabled to also establish metropolitan areas. This was done through the 2011 amendment of laws no. 215 / 23.04.2001 and 351 / 06.07.2001. However, this reference has not been incorporated into all the existing legal provisions regarding metropolitan areas.

Multi-jurisdictional structures such as IDAs are regulated by Law no. 51/2006 on community public utilities services, Law no. 273/2006 regarding local public financing, Law no. 3/2003 on the administration of local public and private assets, Law no. 213/1998 on public

property, Law no. 326/2001 regulating communal management services, Law no. 92/2007 on local public transport services and Law no. 7/1996 regarding the cadaster and land registration or Governance Ordinance no. 39/2018 on PPP.

- *IDAs are defined as legal cooperation structures of private law, set up under the law by the administrative territorial units for the joint development of projects of zonal or regional interest or the joint provision of public services*

Multi-jurisdictional financial and planning framework came into effect in 2008 with the designation of the growth poles and the urban development poles as was outlined through the Government Decision no. 998 / 27.08.2008, with priority given to investments from the programs with EU and national funding. This also mandated metropolitan areas to elaborate Integrated Urban Development Plans (PIDU) and growth poles to elaborate Integrated Urban Development Strategies (SIDUs) which would be the basis of ERDF funds would be allocated.

The evolution of the Romanian legislative framework, from the 2001 identification of metropolitan areas and territories evolving to the fiscal and planning instruments introduced in 2008, show concerted efforts to strengthen the legislative base for inter-jurisdictional cooperation. However, there remains room for improvement in aspects such as:

- Clear national urban policy which provides an evidence base for territorial targeting.
- While legislation provides for and defines metropolitan areas, there is room to more specifically support metropolitan level co-operation especially in the case of those cities which are neither growth poles nor development poles.
- With regard to funding, the lack of integration and mismatches between national programs and European Union funding, combined with poorly functioning land and infrastructure ownership regime and the presence of supra-regional actors with jurisdiction over the territory (e.g. Romanian Waters, the National Company for the Management of Road Infrastructure etc.) hampers metropolitan projects development.
- Legislation governing territorial planning requires better streamlining and clarity on requirements from different levels, especially in relation to plans that traverse administrative boundaries.
- Instruments that enable private sector and community driven processes in development need further enhancement.

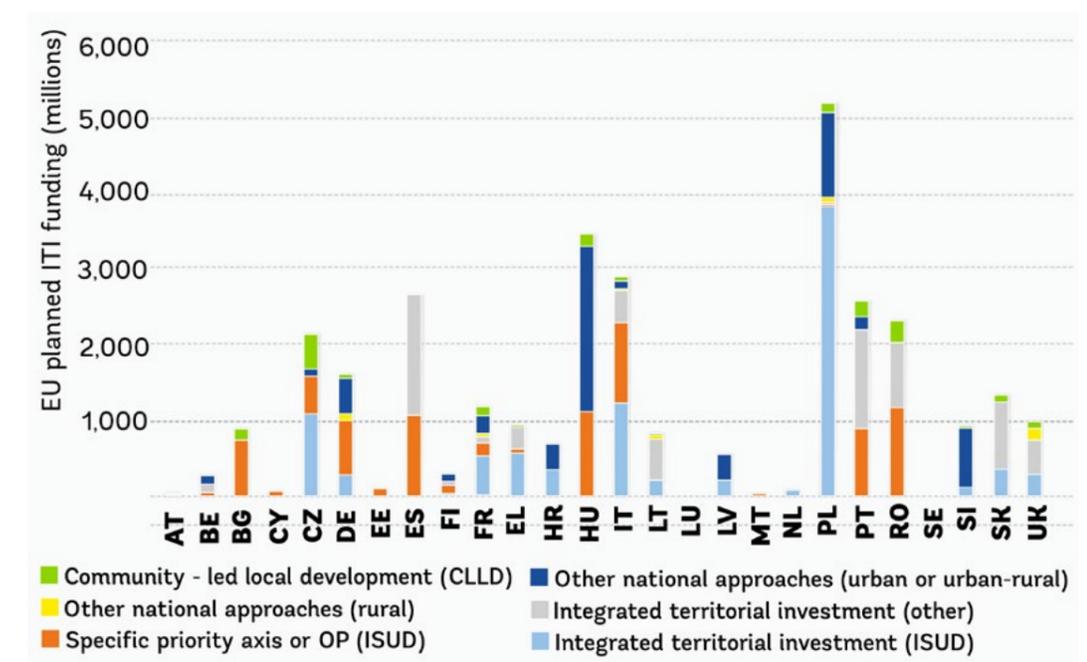
Metropolitan areas in Romania have the potential to play an important role in multi-jurisdictional cooperation and the management of the territories they represent. They have the potential to plan for, and support balanced development of the territories, and to coordinate and monitor development. In this context, it is timely and necessary to further develop a solid framework for multi-jurisdictional cooperation. The framework should clarify and strengthen the position of existing metropolitan areas with growth potential. It would also align their scope and attributions vis-à-vis their members' and with other intercommunity development initiatives. This will avoid overlapping of mandates and dilution of resources and efforts.

MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL COOPERATION MODELS

There are existing institutional models for inter-jurisdictional co-operation which can be further improved through taking a “whole system” approach, from embedding this in a national urban policy, greater flexibility in types of co-operation instruments that are used and focused attention through to building sub-national capacity. The EU case studies that were explored in Output 4 provide useful insights to be considered in designing the Sustainable Urban Development approach for the 2021-2027 Programming Period.

As part of this body of work, the modalities of various EU countries for effective multi-jurisdictional cooperation were explored to draw lessons that Romania can refine and adapt as part of the 2021-2027 Programming Period. This looked at case studies from 9 EU countries (see report on Output 4: Organizational models for inter-jurisdictional cooperation).

FIGURE 5. Organizational models for inter-jurisdictional cooperation in EU countries



Source: European Parliament. 2019. Integrated Territorial Investments as an effective tool of the Cohesion Policy. [In-depth analysis requested by the CONT Committee.]

Romania has experimented with various institutional responses to implement SUD. Some of these are:

Dedicated axis for SUD – Romania decided to implement the SUD for the 2014-2020 programming period through a dedicated axis: Priority Axis 4 of the Regional Operational Programme. The beneficiaries are 39 urban areas – all county capital, with the exception of Tulcea, which has access to dedicated funds through the Danube Delta ITI. A total of around 1.3 billion Euro was pre-allocated to these 39 urban areas. To access these pre-allocated funds under Axis 4 of the ROP, the local administrations had to prepare Integrated Urban Development Strategies and Mobility Plans, and to identify a list of priority projects to be financed. The seven growth poles (Braşov, Cluj-Napoca, Constanţa, Craiova, Iaşi, Ploieşti, and Timişoara) had to focus on the strategy and mobility plan within the metropolitan area – in continuation of the ‘growth pole approach’ used for the 2007-2013 programming period. The other local administrations had the option to prepare the strategy for the territory of an existent metropolitan area, or for a functional urban area (if they did not have an established metropolitan area).

Non-SUD ITI – The Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) tool allowed Romania, as any other EU Member State, to bundle funding from several priority axes of one or more Operational Programs (OPs), to ensure the implementation of an integrated strategy for a specific territory. The key elements of an ITI program are: (a) a designated territory (functional area); (b) a related integrated territorial development strategy; (c) a package of prioritized actions (projects) to be implemented (an investment plan); and (d) governance arrangements to manage the implementation of the ITI program.

The Romanian Government decided to use the ITI tool for the Danube Delta Area, and allocated €1.3 billion to the ITI from various operational programmes, and for a varied array of interventions. The Romania-EU Partnership Agreement, in Chapter 3, describes the proposed ITI approach in Romania. In order to access ITI funding, an integrated strategy for sustainable development of the Danube Delta and the implementation through integrated territorial investments, was prepared. The strategy was elaborated by the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration with EU funding (from the OP Technical Assistance 2007-2013) and with help from the World Bank.

Geographically, the ITI area includes the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (DDBR) and the surrounding areas: the Tulcea municipality, 4 cities (Babadag, Isaccea, and Sulina), 29 communes in Tulcea County, and 4 communes (Corbu, Istria, Mihai Viteazul and Săcele) within the Constanţa County (south-east of Tulcea County and the DDBR).

Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) – Regulation 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the European Council, sets out the framework for the implementation of the Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) approach. The CLLD is an integrated tool, which can be used to respond to complex development issues, requiring the cooperation of several stakeholders from the public, non-governmental and private sector. To access CLLD funding, relevant stakeholders have to form local action groups (LAGs), using the same approach used for the LEADER program in the 2007-2013 Programming Period. CLLD funding is available for two types of LAGs in Romania: 1) marginalized communities in urban areas with more than 20,000 inhabitants; 2) rural areas and towns with under 20,000 inhabitants. In the first case, funding is available from the ERDF and the ESF through the ROP and the OP Human Capital. In the second case, funding is available from European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) through the National Rural Development Program. There are also Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs), implementing European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) projects.

Advantages and disadvantages of key organizational models

For the 2014-2020 Programming Period, different EU countries used different organizational models for the Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) approach and inter-jurisdictional interventions, the main ones being: 1) dedicated OPs; 2) dedicated priority axis under an OP; 3) ITIs; 4) CLLDs. The CLLD tool is designed primarily for small scale interventions and is widely used in Romania for rural areas and small urban areas. Given that the focus of this work program is on the largest secondary urban areas in Romania, only the first three organizational models were considered in more detail. The experience of other EU countries will be highlighted, particularly in relation to aspects that may be relevant for Romanian cities as well.

Dedicated operational program for urban/metropolitan areas

Only Italy used a dedicated urban operational program for multiple urban areas. Given the scale of urban development challenges in Romania, this may be a valid approach. Some of the advantages of this approach include:

- Clear focus on urban areas, rather than on urban areas and regions;
- Dedicated pot of money for urban areas;
- Possibility of greater thematic diversity;
- Possibility of having a more competitive approach, with groups of urban areas having to compete for dedicated funds under priority axes;
- Possibility of having dedicated priority axes for large projects of strategic importance for urban/metropolitan areas; and
- Possibility to clearly link national urban priorities to the Operational Program.

Some of the disadvantages include:

- A new OP may take some time to develop and therefore could delay implementation;
- There is less scope to combine funding with what is offered under other OPs; and
- There will be a reduced funding and scope for the Regional Operational Programme.

Dedicated priority axis under an operational program

This is the organizational model currently used by Romania, and other countries such as Spain and Hungary). Some of the benefits of this model include:

- It is well-known, and an institutional framework is already in place for this type of approach;
- It lowers the administrative burden for national authorities; and
- It is the simplest of all the organizational models.

Some of the shortcomings include:

- It provides less thematic diversity;
- It provides the same options for all urban areas, despite varying needs;
- It places significant administrative burdens (e.g. IUDS, Mobility Plans, Urban Authorities) for relatively small allocations;
- It significantly limits the types of interventions that can be undertaken; and

- It reduces the visibility of urban development initiatives as they are subsumed in a program structure that lacks a clear urban identity.

Inter-Territorial Investments (ITIs)

ITIs have been used extensively by countries like Poland and the Czech Republic, and evidence so far indicates that the tool has been relatively successful. Some of the benefits of ITIs include:

- Possibility to access funding from all relevant OPs, including ERDF, ESF, CF and potentially EAFRD;
- It allows for a higher level of thematic diversity, better integration of funding sources and better response to urban needs;
- Potential for higher dedicated financing for urban areas;
- Increased devolution of responsibilities, creating local ownership;
- Decisions are taken much closer to citizens and relative stakeholders;
- It provides a strong identity for partnerships and strategies;
- It can foster cooperation across administrative boundaries, limiting fragmentation of EU funds, avoiding duplication of investments, and stimulating synergies and scale effects;
- Limits competition over EU funds between municipalities targeted by ITI, encouraging information exchange about investment plans, mutual learning and increasing coordination of EU projects;
- Provides stability that facilitates long term planning;
- Promotes metropolitan approach to strategic development; and
- Facilitates administrative capacity building at the local level and increasing the quality of EU projects and investments.

Some of the shortcoming of ITIs include:

- Difficulty in deciding areas for which to use the ITI, and high competition between areas to secure funding;
- Can lead to snowballing and politicalization with more authorities attempting to secure ring-fenced funding packages;
- Requires adequate local capacity and places a higher bureaucratic burden;
- May require more time in terms of developing the organizational set up when compared with other organizational models;
- May affect absorption, as there is little competition for funds; and
- Lowers competitive drive and does not adequately rewards high performers.

Looking at the various ways in which EU countries have used the SUD approach to finance inter-jurisdictional agreements can provide useful ideas for how the Romanian SUD approach could be improved during the 2021-2027 Programming Period. Some key take-aways from the comparison are included below:

- **Increased resource allocation and flexibility** – Poland relied primarily on the ITI tool for implementation of the SUD, with 24 metropolitan areas and urban agglomerations

receiving support through this tool. Poland not only had a higher resource concentration for each metropolitan area / urban agglomeration, but also access to a higher number of interventions, and a greater flexibility in using EU funds. This greater flexibility was also made possible by a regional approach, consisting of 16 regional Operational Programmes (OP) under which the ITIs were nested. In comparison, Romania had only one such program.

- **Diversity** – Italy has the most diverse SUD approach of any EU country. It has a national OP for metropolitan areas, providing financing to 14 major metropolitan areas in the country. In addition, 21 regions implemented the SUD either through ITIs or through a dedicated priority axis under their regional OP. Italy and Slovenia are also the only two countries in the EU that are jointly implementing a cross-border ITI.
- **Multiple funding sources** – The Czech Republic had an OP dedicated to the Prague Metropolitan area, and 7 ITIs dedicated to the country's largest metropolitan areas and urban agglomerations. The Prague ITI, while located under the OP Prague – Growth Pole also accessed funding from other OPs.
- **Targeting and cross-regional implementation** – Spain used a similar approach to Romania, with the SUD being implemented through a priority axis under the national ROP. However, the allocation of funds was targeted – with 3 key priorities⁶, municipalities with ca 20 000 inhabitants, targeting areas with demonstrable deprivation and development of integrated plans for areas with demographic and economic handicaps. Spain also managed to easily implement ITIs across regions, which is an important lesson for Romania.
- **Strong monitoring and evaluation** – In the 2014-2020 period, France allocated 10% of ERDF/ESF to ISUD initiatives and between the 2007 -2013 and 2014-2020 programming periods, tripled the number of participating urban territories. This points to a maturing policy and fiscal focus on the urban agenda. With this maturity also came a refinement of the monitoring and evaluation measures put in place. For instance, there is a dedicated coordinating structure for ISUD which issues a list of suggested indicators covering demographics, housing, employment, etc. Monitoring and evaluation is typically undertaken multi-agency monitoring and control committees and lessons from these interventions are seen as best practice that should be incorporated into all other projects.
- **Sectoral integration** – Portugal implements the SUD through four regional operational programmes focused on strengthening metropolitan areas and promoting urban regeneration in top-level urban centers. The Integrated Urban Development Strategies have to draw on three pre-existing plans: Mobility Plans; Urban Regeneration Action Plans and Integrated Action Plans for Disadvantaged Communities.
- **Decentralization** – Germany has a highly decentralized approach, in which the SUD's implementation is decided by each of the 16 regional governments. This includes the use of the ITI tool, dedicated priority axes under the regional operational programmes, and competitive calls for Integrated Urban Development Strategies implemented through mixed priority axes.

⁶ 1) Improving the physical and ambient environment of urban areas (Sustainable Cities) – corresponding to TO4 and TO6 2) Improving the economic dimension and competitiveness of urban areas (Smart Cities) – corresponding to TO2 and 3) Improving the social dimension of urban areas (Inclusive Cities) – corresponding to TO9.

- **Thematic focus and innovation** – Finland’s SUD approach focused on an ITI formed by the country’s six largest cities (Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa, Oulu, Tampere, and Turku). The primary aim of the ITI strategy is to strengthen Finland’s competitiveness by using the largest cities as the development and testing environments for innovations. The approach is thematically focused and concentrates limited resources, given the small sums each city can access (an average of €6.6 million per city).
- **Multi-stakeholder engagement** – The UK has taken an inclusive approach to SUD implementation with Local Enterprise Partnerships (partnerships between local administrations, private sector, NGOs, and other local actors) being in charge of developing SUD Strategies. The SUD strategies are delivered through ITIs in the core urban areas (i.e. urban areas with more than 600,000 people, which include London, Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Nottingham Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield), focusing on functional urban areas rather than just the core cities.

To anchor the above considerations in program design to further strengthen Romania’s urban driven-growth agenda, the design of the 2021-2027 SUD should consider the following options:

Option 1. Dedicated axis under the ROP 2021-2027, as is the case now, but with a higher concentration of funds targeted at urban areas and with the possibility of inter-jurisdictional agreements or project-based partnerships eligible for EU funding. Local administrations that choose to pursue functional urban area approaches can be incentivized through premium allocations or funding lines dedicated to strategic projects with metropolitan impact. Urban jurisdictions should also have a wider menu of intervention fields to choose from – in response to specific challenges or opportunities they want to exploit.

Option 2. A Metropolitan Areas’ Operational Programme, dedicated to growth poles and development poles from the 2007-2013 Programming Period (following the Italian model), with higher thematic diversity and eligibility open for all territorial administrative units that are part of the metropolitan area / functional urban area of these growth poles and development poles. One, or several axes under this OP could be dedicated to inter-jurisdictional projects that respond to metropolitan or urban agglomeration dynamics. Projects under these axes could be negotiated and prioritized ahead of time and not be subject to competitive selection. All other urban areas could have a dedicated axis in the ROP 2021-2027, similar to the current Axis 13 of the ROP 2014-2020. In addition, for targeted issues, urban areas should have the possibility to form Local Action Groups, with other local administrations, private sector representatives, and/or NGOs. Also, as is the case for the SUD 2014-2020, for thematic areas that are not included specifically in the Metropolitan Areas OP, local administrations should be allowed to access funding from other OPs.

Option 3. ITIs for the 7 growth poles, with around 50% of total SUD funding. Another 50% allocated for the other 32 county capitals under a dedicated priority axis under the ROP (similar to the current Axis 4, but with the adjustments discussed under Option 1). All the other urban areas could have a dedicated axis under the ROP 2021-2027, similar to the approach currently used with Axis 13 of the ROP 2014-2020. For targeted issues, urban areas should have the possibility to form Local Action Groups, with other local administrations, private sector representatives, and/or NGOs. For thematic areas that are not included specifically in the dedicated axes, local administrations should be allowed to access funding from other OPs.

Option 4. Urban Development Operational Programme for the current 39 Article 7 urban areas. As discussed under Option 1 and 2, dedicated priority axes should be made available for strategic projects with metropolitan impact. A dedicated priority axis under the ROP 2021-2027 would be available for small urban areas, with an approach similar to the current Axis 13 of the ROP 2014-2020. For targeted issues, urban areas should have the possibility to form Local Action Groups, with other local administrations, private sector representatives, and/or NGOs. For thematic areas that are not included specifically in the dedicated axes, local administrations should be allowed to access funding from other OPs.

Option 5. Regional Operational Programmes, with the SUD approach decided individually for each region (as is the case in Italy). Several sub-options can be considered here, as follows:

Option 5.1. 8 Regional Operational Programmes with regional MAs. Within this option, the function and attributions of the Managing Authority are transferred at the regional level to RDAs, taking over some areas from the current nationally managed Operational Programmes.

Option 5.2. Maintaining the current framework with a national ROP for part of the regions and pilot Regional OPs for 3-5 voluntary regions. Within this option, one could have a mix of regional programs: one managed nationally (similar to the one from 2014-2020) and 3-5 Regional OPs managed similar to Option 5.1, in which the function and duties of the Managing Authority are transferred at regional level. Participating in such a pilot program would be voluntary.

Option 5.3. Keeping a national ROP, with an axis and allocation dedicated to each region, as well as with a consistent transfer of competences to the regions. The Global grant model of the Large Infrastructure OP could be used as a model. Within this option, everything is organized under a single regional operational program. However, the particularities of each region are transposed at the level of specific axis and differentiated allocation. The managing authority at central level has the exclusive coordinating role of the program, all the other attributions will be exercised at the level of RDAs as intermediary bodies. For the SUD approach, local administrations could function as secondary intermediary bodies.

A multi-stakeholder consultations process, undertaken from August to November 2019, and including the Ministry of European Funds, the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration, the Association of the Regional Development Agencies, the Association of Municipalities, and the European Commission, endorsed Option 5.1. as the preferred SUD approach for the 2021-2027 Programming Period. Going forward, to further advance the gains made over the previous programming periods and reflecting on lessons learnt in Romania and other EU countries, the report recommends a bolder SUD approach for the 2021-2027 Programming Period that foregrounds and expands the urban agenda. In the next programming period, development partners must tackle not only capital investment challenges, but also address structural challenges such as peripherality, capacity and low quality of institutions. This can be done through better aligned EU, national and regional policies and resources to create the necessary preconditions for economic growth. Some of the identified cultural and institutional pre-conditions are:

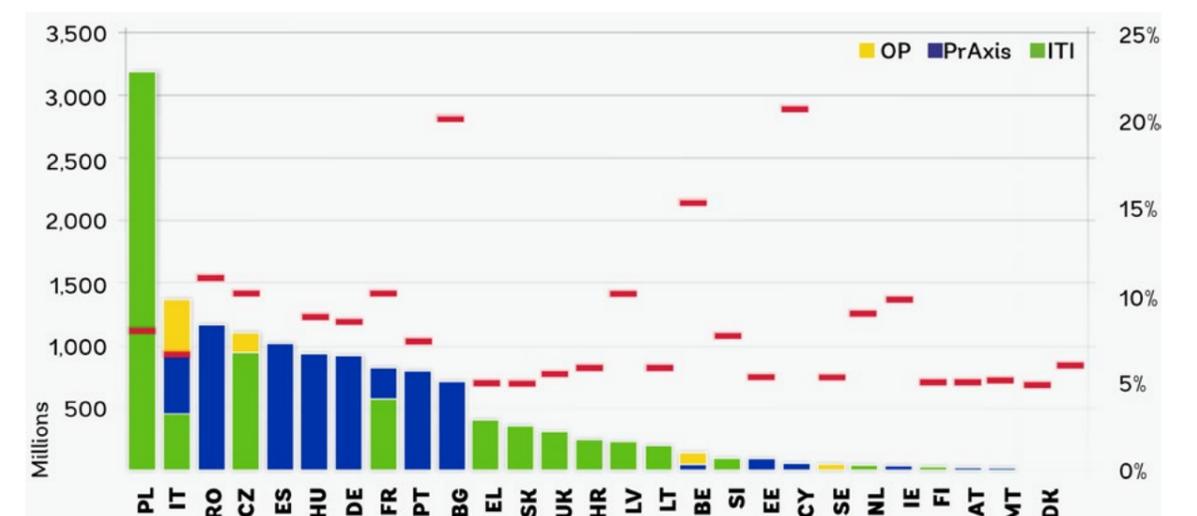
- 1. Taking a long-term view** – EU case studies explored show that multi-jurisdiction cooperation approaches have evolved as they matured, and government therefore needs to take a long-term view and build in mechanisms and capability for learning and refinement as the system matures. Key amongst those mechanisms is long-term inter-jurisdictional Integrated Urban Development Plans.
- 2. Multi-jurisdiction cooperation structures that were informed by a clear national urban development/growth policy seem to have been more successful.** A national assessment of growth poles and associated Functional Urban Areas that are maintained over time, supported by robust institutional, planning and fiscal resources, provides policy clarity and certainty and thus improves the performance of identified urban areas, strengthens urban-rural linkages and satisfies the need to make integrated investments outside the administrative territory.
- 3. Flexible and agile institutional responses** – There is evidence of various approaches to structuring multi-jurisdiction cooperation, from informal (agreements) to formal. The decision on which modality works should be made taking factors like context, capacity, etc. into account. In order to respond to the different levels of capacity and resources, national governments should consider a 'deal-making' type of approach to SUD implementation. This would allow for tailored structures, responsibilities and operations while ensuring they meet national and European expectations.
- 4. Financing** – The case studies highlighted the different ways in which these structures and their work were financed. While focus was given to how EU funds were utilized, it is clear that where there was financial certainty (with national funds also being allocated to the same areas and sectors) there was greater success.
- 5. Clarity of roles and responsibilities** – Multi-jurisdiction cooperation requires clear delineation of roles and responsibilities between various parties.
- 6. Capacity** – Multi-jurisdiction cooperation requires capacity that may not be typically resident in local municipalities and building this capacity is an important cog in the development robust urban administrations. This capacity should also focus on building and improving citizen participation and private sector engagement.

FISCAL INSTRUMENTS

There are financial instruments targeted at urban areas and supportive of inter-jurisdictional co-operational investment, however, there is room to further refine these in dimensions such as territorial targeting, increased flexibility and expansion of the scope of interventions and quantum of money directed towards implementing SUD. The need for an increase in the 2021-2027 ERDF and ESF allocation targeted at SUD is highlighted hereunder.

Romania had both one of the largest SUD 2014-2020 allocations, and at 11%, one of the highest ERDF shares for these types of interventions, exceeding the minimum 5% mandate by the ERDF regulation (see figure 6 below). It is worth noting however that the value of SUD projects submitted for funding is 3.27 bln Euro, which equates to 236% of allocated funds.

FIGURE 6. Allocations (€ mil. and % of ERDF) and implementation mechanisms for SUD 2014-2020



Source: Matkó, Marton. 2016. Sustainable urban development in Cohesion policy programmes 2014- 2020, a brief overview. Paper presented at Urban Development Network Meeting, 18 February 2016

The quantum of investment notwithstanding, the Romanian SUD approach has a number of deficiencies in relation to urban investments broadly and more specifically, inter-jurisdictional investments, such as:

- Interventions and projects emanating from inter-jurisdictional agreements did not have specific eligibility provisions, as such funding went primarily to core cities.
- The average allocation per urban area was relatively low compared to other countries – i.e. around 30 mil. Euro per urban area, compared to 138 mil. Euro in Czech Republic, or 133 mil. Euro in Poland.
- During the 2014-2020 Programming Period and under the SUD financing window, Romanian urban areas could only undertake interventions for 4 thematic areas which is significantly less than in some other countries (i.e. Polish urban areas had access to 39 thematic areas) thus limiting SUD reach and impact.
- The bureaucratic burden for accessing SUD funds may be considered disproportionate in relation to the funds available.
- There is a lack of resource concentration, with large urban areas receiving similar amounts than small urban areas (for the same thematic areas), although the needs vary significantly. For example, Constanța, with around 550,000 people residing in the functional urban area had access to 47 mil. Euro under the SUD – as compared to the 22 mil Euro available for the Sfântu Gheorghe urban area, with only 85,000 people.

According to the draft Cohesion Policy for the 2021-2027 Programming Period, member states, have to allocate at least 6% of ERDF funds for Sustainable Urban Development (SUD). In the case of Romania this means at least 1.039 bln. Euro. The draft Cohesion Policy further gives the following guidance in relation to thematic concentration:

POLICY OBJECTIVE	% ALLOCATION	± QUANTUM OF INVESTMENT
PO 1 – Smarter Europe	35% ERDF	±€6 billion
PO 2 – Greener Europe	30% ERDF	±€5.2 billion
Climate change	30% ERDF	±€5.2 billion
Climate change	37% CF	±€1.7 billion
Material support for disadvantaged people	2% ESF +	±€0.17 billion
Social inclusion	25% ESF+	±€2.1 billion
Support for unemployed youth	10% ESF+	€0.8 billion

Similar to other countries Romania has a significant Financing Gap, of around 83 bln. Euro (see table below), when investment needs, as laid down in various strategies and plans, are compared to available sources of funding.

Determining how to prioritize these extensive needs with limited resources is a process that is involves matching scientific evidence with political choices. A comprehensive national development strategy can provide a framework for evidence-based inputs in policy processes whilst also setting out political priorities that aid prioritization.

In the absence of such policy guidance, the determination of what percentage should be directed to cities and for what types of investments is assessed based on need, territorial targeting and absorption capacity.

TABLE 2.
Investment needs by sector in Romania (in million Euro)

PRIORITY SECTOR	Investment Needs (in mill. Euro)	EU Funds allocations for 2014-2023	State / county / local budget allocations	Loans	PPPs	Financing Gap
Highways	€ 13,254	€ 1,742	€ 824	€ 2,935	€ 1,897	€ 5,856
Express Roads	€ 10,367	€ 586	€ 491	€ 772	-	€ 8,518
National Roads	€ 2,292	€ 445	€ 73	€ 268	-	€ 1,506
Bypasses	€ 332	€ 181	€ 34	€ 117	-	€ 0
County Roads	€ 6,413	€ 946	€ 1,774	-	-	€ 3,693
Communal Roads	€ 4,728	€ 440	€ 3,428	-	-	€ 4,288
Railways	€ 14,382	€ 2,070	€ 1,626	-	€ 810	€ 9,876
Bucharest Metro	€ 9,880	€ 683	€ 200	-	-	€ 8,997
Port Infrastructure	€ 3,381	€ 619	€ 486	-	-	€ 2,276
Airport Infrastructure	€ 1,421	€ 552	€ 434	-	-	€ 435
Multimodal Transport Hubs	€ 316	€ 70	€ 55	-	-	€ 191
Water and Wastewater	€ 23,804	€ 3,014	€ 2,880	€ 1,200	-	€ 16,710
Solid Waste Management	€ 352	€ 352	?	-	-	-
Cadaster	€ 1,300	€ 313	€ 600	-	-	€ 387
Brownfields	€ 8,500	€ 338	€ 35	-	-	€ 8,127
Thermal Insulation	€ 5,300	€ 1,187	€ 1,006	-	€ 184	€ 2,923
District Heating	€ 1,000	€ 250	-	-	-	€ 750
Tourism Infrastructure	€ 650	€ 119	-	-	-	€ 531
Seismic Risk Retrofitting	€ 180	-	-	-	-	€ 180
Public / Social Housing	€ 4,500	€ 25	-	-	-	€ 4,475
Historic Districts	€ 1,125	-	-	-	-	€ 1,125
Social Infrastructure in Rural Areas (education, health, sport, cultural)	€ 3,705	€ 522	€ 788	-	-	€ 2,395
Integrated Investment Plan (including mobility plan) for Bucharest	€ 5,654	€ 500	€ 5,154	-	?	€ 0
Integrated Investment Programs (including Mobility Plans) for County Capitals	€ 5,977	€ 2,746	€ 2,890	-	€ 251	€ 0
Integrated Investment Programs for the other Municipalities (63) and towns (217)	€ 3,568	€ 2,614	€ 954	-	-	€ 0
Danube Delta ITI	€ 1,114	€ 1,114	-	-	-	€ 0
TOTAL	€ 133,394	€ 19,962	€ 22,312	€ 5,292	€ 3,143	€ 83,239

Source: collected from various existing masterplans, strategies and operational programs

More resource allocation – above 6% of ERDF

For the 2014-2023 implementation period, the World Bank estimated that Romania's 40 county capitals could sustainably undertake capital investments of around 6 bln. Euro. The basic premise of this estimate is that every public investment decision should take operation and maintenance (O&M) costs into consideration, and investments should not be undertaken if future O&M costs cannot be covered by domestic budgets. Of these 6 bln. Euro, urban areas can access around 2.7 bln. Euro (46% of capital investments envelopes) through EU funds in the 2014 – 2023 implementation period – either through the dedicated funds under Priority Axis 4 of the ROP (1.3 bln. in total), or through a competitive process through other priority axes under the existent operational programs.

The 46 % of capital investment envelopes from EU funds represents a relatively large proportion of total EU funding for major urban areas. However, when the data is disaggregated it becomes clear that large cities, which are critical for the competitiveness of their respective regions, receive disproportionately less EU funds. For the 2021-2027 programming period, it is important that EU funds are allocated according to actual needs in a way that other EU countries have done (the case studies of Poland, Italy, or Czech Republic provide a good example of how resources could be allocated in a more equitable way).

For the 2021-2027 Programming Period, Romania will have a proposed ERDF allocation of around 17.3 bln. Euro. Of these, the new Cohesion Policy indicates that at least 6% should be allocated for the SUD approach. Thus, if Romania were to allocate the minimum 6% of ERDF for SUD, the total sum, would come up to 1.039 bln. Euro. If 11% of ERDF, as is the case for 2014-2020, will be allocated for SUD, the total sum will come up to 1.905 bln. Euro.

However, in order to fully support urban areas' economic growth potential and to achieve a more equitable overall distribution of funds, an increase in allocation to around 15% of ERDF with, the total sum would come up to 2.598 bln. Euro would be desirable.

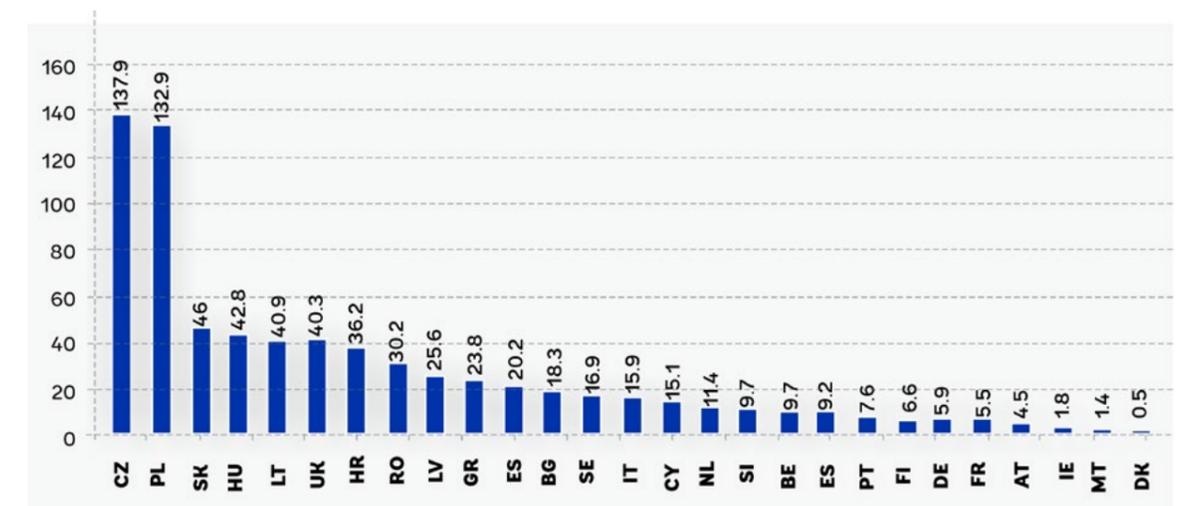
More resource concentration

More resources do not only mean a larger allocation, it should also involve concentrating those resources in those areas where they have the most impact. Given the large needs and the spread of those needs across a large geographical territory, there is an inherent push to spread resources in a balanced way. While this ensures equity across local authorities and as such avoids conflicts, it does not necessarily respond to actual development dynamics. Development is inherently unbalanced and relies on a defined number of economic engines driving growth which benefits other areas. And, while it is important to ensure that the distance between these economic engines and the rest of the country does not become a too large, it is equally important to ensure that these economic engines work at their full potential. In short, under investment in areas that can provide growth can have negative consequences not just for those areas but also for the rest of the country.

Within the particular context Romanian urban areas, in addition to looking at economic output or productivity, it is also important to understand how successful these areas are in terms of offering a potential alternative to out-migration. In other words, quality of life together with economic development needs of urban areas needs to form the basis for resource allocation decision if Romanian cities are to become competitive and be considered as an alternative to cities in Western Europe thus enabling those cities to act as "dams" to outmigration.

The figure below shows that the average SUD allocation per urban area in Romania is quite low compared to other EU countries. Urban areas like Wroclaw (Poland), Brno (Czech Republic), Gdansk or Poznan (Poland), have SUD allocations of upward of 200 mil. Euro – which is considerably more than the 50 mil. Euro SUD funds that similar Romanian cities, such as Constanța, Brașov, or Cluj-Napoca, have at their disposal⁷.

FIGURE 7.
Average SUD allocation per urban area in EU countries for 2014-2020



Source: Matko, Marton. 2016. Sustainable Urban Development in cohesion policy programmes 2014-2020. [PowerPoint Presentation delivered on February 18, 2016 in Brussels.]

The impact of the SUD approach is much diminished if there is no effort to purposefully focus on functional urban areas instead of only core cities. EU funds represent an excellent vehicle for undertaking inter-jurisdictional projects that may be difficult to undertake without some key incentives in place. For example, despite rapid suburbanization in most dynamic cities in Romania, no major connective infrastructure additions have been made over the pre-1989 infrastructure. There is a critical need for metropolitan connective infrastructure and metropolitan public transport, to address connectivity issues at the metropolitan level.

For the 2021-2027 Programming Period, targeted incentives should be offered for the local administrations that choose to focus on inter-jurisdictional approaches. The 7 growth poles,

⁷ It should be noted that the relatively low allocation per urban area in more developed EU countries is due both to the relatively small EU funds allocated for developed regions (most funding focuses on less-developed regions) and to the substantial additional own-source revenues developed cities have at their disposal.

should be obliged to prepare Integrated Urban Development Strategies at the metropolitan level, in line with the approach from 2007-2013, and 2014-2020, but with clear incentives for the implementation of interjurisdictional projects and projects in suburban and periurban areas.

For the other 32 county capitals the following options can be considered:

- County capitals with territorial cooperation established through an associative structure (IDA/Intercommunity Development Association-type) at metropolitan level (ex. Oradea, Baia Mare, Bacău, etc.) can choose to implement an IUDS at the metropolitan level and have the option to implement projects through: 1) the IDA; 2) through individual project-based partnerships between member localities.
- County capital cities that do not have a territorial cooperation form institutionally established, can have the option to elaborate an IUDS for their functional urban area, and can have access to additional resources for interjurisdictional projects (which can be implemented through project based partnerships) and for individual suburban/periurban projects, with demonstrable contribution to increasing integrated functionality of the FUA.

An incentive worth considering is a percentage allocation for investments emanating from metropolitan Integrated Urban Development Strategies with pre-allocated resources that are not subject to competitive bidding.

More resources for FUAs

SUD funds are primarily designed for urban areas, not just for cities, case studies explored show that most countries used SUD funds for functional urban areas (FUAs), not just for single cities. As such, it is important for Romanian authorities to make SUD funds available for FUAs. In practice, this means that suburban and peri-urban localities should become eligible for SUD funding too.

In the table below, the capital investment envelopes for the 2021-2029 period for the current 39 (Article 7) SUD beneficiaries are estimated⁸, and for the localities that are part of their functional urban areas. Next, the three SUD scenarios discussed above (with 6%, 11%, and 15% of ERDF allocated for SUD) are considered, and SUD funds have been distributed by FUA, according to the size of their capital investment envelopes.

TABLE 3.
Proposed SUD allocations for 2021-2029

FUA	CAPITAL INVESTMENT ENVELOPES FOR 2021-2029		PROPOSED SUD FUNDS ALLOCATIONS FOR 2021-2029		
	CORE CITY	OUTER FUA	6% OF ERDF	11% OF ERDF	15% OF ERDF
Alba Iulia	€ 89,943,358	€ 36,158,792	€ 13,342,044	€ 24,460,413	€ 33,355,109
Alexandria	€ 52,446,111	€ 13,990,221	€ 7,029,194	€ 12,886,855	€ 17,572,984
Arad	€ 263,893,016	€ 122,686,174	€ 40,901,416	€ 74,985,929	€ 102,253,539
Bacău	€ 213,667,568	€ 52,582,472	€ 28,170,175	€ 51,645,321	€ 70,425,438
Baia Mare	€ 138,228,383	€ 59,166,594	€ 20,885,071	€ 38,289,298	€ 52,212,678
Bistrița	€ 93,514,267	€ 37,561,775	€ 13,868,299	€ 25,425,214	€ 34,670,747
Botoșani	€ 92,838,228	€ 13,263,307	€ 11,225,909	€ 20,580,834	€ 28,064,774
Brăila	€ 169,176,837	€ 19,477,785	€ 19,960,312	€ 36,593,905	€ 49,900,779
Brașov	€ 398,334,589	€ 232,660,122	€ 66,761,423	€ 122,395,943	€ 166,903,558
Bușău	€ 156,373,694	€ 70,404,268	€ 23,993,893	€ 43,988,804	€ 59,984,732
Călărași	€ 67,246,490	€ 21,737,199	€ 9,414,782	€ 17,260,434	€ 23,536,955
Cluj-Napoca	€ 475,891,989	€ 144,409,773	€ 65,630,072	€ 120,321,799	€ 164,075,181
Constanța	€ 394,015,461	€ 307,604,667	€ 74,233,837	€ 136,095,368	€ 185,584,592
Craiova	€ 311,010,624	€ 88,834,258	€ 42,304,972	€ 77,559,115	€ 105,762,430
Deva	€ 90,416,832	€ 98,213,791	€ 19,957,772	€ 36,589,249	€ 49,894,431
Drobeta-Turnu Severin	€ 98,774,636	€ 23,704,049	€ 12,958,669	€ 23,757,559	€ 32,396,671
Focșani	€ 91,088,969	€ 57,336,586	€ 15,703,937	€ 28,790,552	€ 39,259,843
Galați	€ 301,514,078	€ 60,668,842	€ 38,320,206	€ 70,253,711	€ 95,800,515
Giurgiu	€ 59,007,416	€ 8,847,665	€ 7,179,302	€ 13,162,054	€ 17,948,256
Iași	€ 332,826,697	€ 64,938,480	€ 42,084,932	€ 77,155,708	€ 105,212,329
Miercurea-Ciuc	€ 54,997,069	€ 37,669,456	€ 9,804,439	€ 17,974,805	€ 24,511,097
Oradea	€ 256,106,200	€ 109,913,010	€ 38,726,099	€ 70,997,847	€ 96,815,246
Piatra Neamț	€ 114,727,703	€ 37,676,652	€ 16,124,908	€ 29,562,331	€ 40,312,270
Pitești	€ 199,099,258	€ 207,083,933	€ 42,975,587	€ 78,788,576	€ 107,438,967
Ploiești	€ 308,172,351	€ 234,416,867	€ 57,407,816	€ 105,247,663	€ 143,519,541
Râmnicu Vâlcea	€ 134,585,494	€ 102,170,532	€ 25,049,607	€ 45,924,279	€ 62,624,016
Reșița	€ 81,817,762	€ 5,325,761	€ 9,220,086	€ 16,903,491	€ 23,050,215
Satu Mare	€ 120,885,150	€ 57,911,640	€ 18,917,319	€ 34,681,751	€ 47,293,297
Sfântu Gheorghe	€ 60,555,334	€ 20,108,196	€ 8,534,480	€ 15,646,548	€ 21,336,201
Sibiu	€ 241,837,912	€ 132,160,649	€ 39,570,342	€ 72,545,626	€ 98,925,854
Slatina	€ 108,849,540	€ 34,478,264	€ 15,164,577	€ 27,801,725	€ 37,911,444
Slobozia	€ 55,166,784	€ 24,399,179	€ 8,418,354	€ 15,433,649	€ 21,045,885
Suceava	€ 140,278,476	€ 45,137,837	€ 19,617,687	€ 35,965,760	€ 49,044,218

⁸ Using budget execution data made available by the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration (current MPWDA).

FUA	CAPITAL INVESTMENT ENVELOPES FOR 2021-2029		PROPOSED SUD FUNDS ALLOCATIONS FOR 2021-2029		
Târgoviște	€ 112,071,656	€ 63,821,101	€ 18,610,062	€ 34,118,447	€ 46,525,156
Târgu Jiu	€ 96,124,581	€ 42,492,534	€ 14,666,170	€ 26,887,979	€ 36,665,426
Târgu Mureș	€ 209,001,407	€ 79,370,703	€ 30,510,767	€ 55,936,406	€ 76,276,917
Timișoara	€ 473,288,443	€ 240,240,247	€ 75,493,804	€ 138,405,307	€ 188,734,510
Vaslui	€ 54,536,763	€ 15,106,405	€ 7,368,488	€ 13,508,895	€ 18,421,220
Zalău	€ 64,393,039	€ 23,252,395	€ 9,273,190	€ 17,000,849	€ 23,182,975
TOTAL	€ 6,776,704,167	€ 3,046,982,180	€ 1,039,380,000	€ 1,905,530,000	€ 2,598,450,000

More thematic diversity

The current 39 Article 7 cities in Romania, have access to only four thematic areas, with a large focus on sustainable mobility. By comparison, Poland allowed access to 39 thematic areas. Therefore, in order to enable urban areas to develop strategies that are better able to target their development needs, there needs to be wider range of thematic areas from which investment priorities can be drawn. Annex 3 includes all intervention fields eligible for EU financing for the 2021-2027 Programming Period. Investment fields that would make most sense for Romanian cities and that help meet Cohesion Policy requirements have been highlighted⁹.

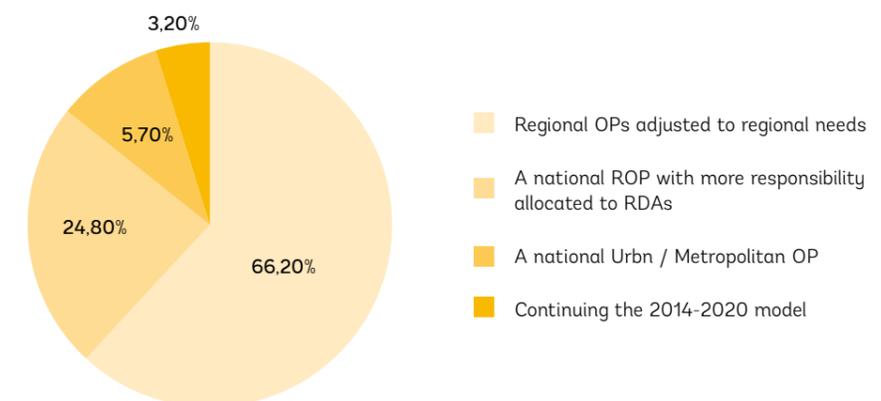
It is clear that the possibilities for achieving PO1 concentration under the SUD approach is relatively limited. However, the SUD approach can significantly contribute to meeting the PO2 concentration. The SUD approach also lends itself well to meeting the ESF+ social inclusion goals. This underscores the importance of more thematic diversity so that investments address not only local development needs but also contribute to EU Policy Objectives.

TOWARDS A SUD 2021-2027 APPROACH

⁹ It also has to be mentioned that sustainable mobility, currently classified under PO3, will be moved to PO2 – which will make it much easier for urban areas to meet the Greener Europe criteria.

During the preparation of the various outputs planned under this project, a number of consultations were organized on the topics of sustainable urban development and inter-jurisdictional coordination, and the thinking on the issue has evolved. For example, at the time of the writing of this report, the Ministry of European Funds has come forward with a concrete proposal for the organization of operational programmes, using the input received from the Association of Regional Development Agencies, the Association of Municipalities, and from individual local administrations. There is a clear preference across the board, to have a decentralized approach for the 2021-2027 Programming Period, with 8 individual regional operational programmes, and with the regional development agencies transformed into managing authorities. In the month of October, the World Bank has asked the administrations of the 39 county residences, what preference they have for the organization of regional development funds, particularly with respect to how they will access EU funding in the next programming period. A significant majority expressed a preference for "Regional OPs adjusted to regional needs" (see figure below). Of 157 local administration representatives that have answered the survey, around two thirds expressed a clear preference for regional OPs, and another 26% would prefer a more decentralized approach..

FIGURE 8.
How the 39 county residences prefer to access regional development funds for 2021-2027



The Ministry of European Funds is working now with the European Commission, the Ministry of Public Works, Development, and Public Administration, the Regional Development Agencies, and local administrations, to develop the architecture of operational programmes for the 2021-2027 Programming Period. The draft Cohesion Policy 2021-2027 more or less imposes a certain structure and organization of funds. Thus, the 17.742 bln. Euro allocated through the ERDF, including the 5% transfer from the ESF+, would at a minimum have to be split by policy objectives, as indicated in the table below. It has to be mentioned here, the PO 5, under which the Sustainable Urban Development approach is nested, can combine interventions from under PO 1-4. Annex 3, indicates in green highlight, the interventions that would make most sense for the SUD approach. Also, the 6% of the ERDF PO 5 allocation is the minimum proposed for SUD – the actual allocation can be greater.

TABLE 4.
Minimum ERDF allocations by Policy Objective, for Romania, for the 2021-2027 Programming Period

POLICY OBJECTIVE	%	Allocation (bln. Euro)
PO 1 – A Smarter Europe	35%	5.992
PO 2 – A Greener, Carbon-free Europe	30%	5.136
PO 3 – A More Connected Europe PO 4 – A More Social Europe	28%	4.966
PO 5 – A Europe closer to citizens	6%	1.027
Technical Assistance	<1%	0.621
TOTAL		17,121

TABLE 5.
Portfolio of mature projects for the current 39 SUD urban areas, by region

REGION	Estimated budget of mature projects
C	€ 1,191,336,842
NE	€ 323,522,327
NV	€ 597,078,801
S	€ 361,631,686
SE	€ 278,765,958
SV	€ 347,956,828
V	€ 326,018,964
GRAND TOTAL	€ 3,426,311,406

The Association of Municipalities has asked that at least 15% of ERDF funds (around 2.5 bln. Euro) be ringfenced for the Sustainable Urban Development approach, with beneficiary urban areas having to elaborate integrated urban development strategies to access the funding. The World Bank has estimated that for the 2021-2029 Implementation Period, the current 39 SUD urban areas, could sustainably spend on capital investments (i.e. ensure that they would also have funds to cover operations and maintenance costs for the investments undertaken) around **6-7 bln. Euro**. Furthermore, the Bank team has asked each of the 39 local administrations to send a list with mature projects, which could, theoretically be submitted for EU funding immediately in the 2021-2027 Programming Period, or even in the current programming period. Such a list of mature projects was received from every of the 39 county capitals, and the total value of mature projects comes up to around **3.4 bln. Euro** – a mature pipe-line, significantly higher in value than the proposed 2.5 bln. Euro ringfenced financing. The table below shows a breakdown of the pipeline of mature projects, by region.

These mature projects were also arranged by policy objective, to see the extent to which these meet the requirements of the 2021-2027 Cohesion Policy. While around 50% of the value of these mature projects goes towards achieving OP2 concentration (with at least 30% of ERDF funds having to meet this concentration), there are very few mature projects focusing on OP1 – largely because of how the Axis 4 of the ROP 2014-2020 was designed, but also based on the actual needs of Romanian local administrations.

TABLE 6.
Portfolio of mature projects for the current 39 SUD urban areas, by policy objective

POLICY OBJECTIVE	ESTIMATED VALUE OF MATURE PROJECTS
OP 1. A smarter Europe	€ 14,429,055
OP 2. A greener, low-carbon Europe	€ 1,680,463,703
OP 3. A more connected Europe	€ 324,769,503
OP 4. A more social Europe	€ 1,059,982,247
OP 5. A Europe closer to citizens	€ 344,266,898
Administrative Capacity	€ 2,400,000
GRAND TOTAL	€ 3,426,311,406

With respect to the allocation of funds by urban areas, the general consensus is that individual budgets should be ring-fenced at the national level, to avoid a situation where similar urban areas get different allocations, based on the region they are part of. The Association of Regional Development Agencies proposed to allocate funds for urban area based on population and financial capacity, with individual budgets adjusted to the regional allocations.

The Association of Regional Development Agencies has also proposed that each urban area get 70% of allocated funds for the first two years, and if it does not manage to contract these 70% within two years, it loses the rest of 30% to a common pool, which along with other savings achieved over the implementation period could be accessed by all urban areas in the respective region.

With respect to the other structural funds, there are a number of in-built restrictions, which will guide the programme architecture for the 2021-2027 Programming Period. For example, the ESF+ allocations of 7.996 bln. Euro for Romania, excluding the 5% transfer to ERDF, has around 44% of allocated funds earmarked for specific objectives. The Cohesion Fund has a much smaller allocation than in the current programming period, which will likely require additional allocations from the ERDF for large infrastructure projects.

TABLE 7.
Minimum ESF+ allocations for Romania, for the 2021-2027 Programming Period

POLICY OBJECTIVE	SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	%	ALLOCATION (BLN. EURO)
PO 4 – A More Social Europe	Social inclusion	25%	1.913
	Assistance for marginalized people	8%	0.612
	Initiative dedicated to NEETs	10%	0.765
	Other ESF+ specific objectives	56%	4.363
Technical Assistance		<1%	0.312
TOTAL			7.654

TABLE 8.
Split of Cohesion Fund allocations for Romania, for 2021-2027

POLICY OBJECTIVE	ALLOCATION (BLN. EURO)
PO 2 – A Greener, Carbon-free Europe	3.323
PO 3 – A More Connected Europe	
Technical Assistance	0.085
Transfer to the Connecting Europe Facility 2.0	1.091

Taking these strategic requirements into consideration, the Ministry of European Funds has proposed the following programme architecture:

- OP Transport (POT)
- OP Human Capital (POCU)
- 8 ROPs (POR)
- OP Technical Assistance (POAT)
- OP for Assistance to Marginalized People (POAPD)
- OP Health (POS)
- OP Smart Specialization and Digitization (POSID)
- OP Integrated Territorial Development (PODTI)
- OP Sustainable Development (PODD)
- OP Internal Affairs (POAI)
- National Rural Development Programme (PNDR)
- OP Fisheries and Maritime Affairs (POPAM)

Furthermore, the MEF proposal is to have the SUD delivered through dedicated axes for large urban areas, within each of the 7 ROPs, excluding the Bucharest-Ilfov ROP (which would have a dedicated approach of its own). The SUD eligible urban areas would have to prepare integrated urban development strategies to access pre-allocated funds, or where such already exist, revise for strategic fit. In addition, there is a proposal to have a dedicated funds for small urban.

The ROPs, under which the dedicated SUD axes would be nested, could have the following allocations¹⁰:

- i. **Regional OPs: 10.02 bln. Euro**, which could include the following intervention types¹¹:
 - Innovation and R&D interventions (PO1): 1.35 bln. Euro (ERDF);
 - Support for SMEs (PO 1): 2.25 bln. Euro (ERDF);

- "Smart City" interventions, including street lighting (PO 1): 0.642 bln. Euro (ERDF);
- County e-governance systems (PO 1): 0.400 bln. Euro (ERDF);
- Energy efficiency interventions (PO 2): 1 bln. Euro (ERDF);
- Urban mobility (PO 2): 1.636 bln. Euro (ERDF);
- County roads, bypasses, and exits (PO 3): 1 bln. Euro (ERDF);
- County hospitals (PO 4): 0.215 bln. Euro (ERDF);
- Educational infrastructure (PO 4): 0.500 bln. Euro (ERDF);
- Social infrastructure (PO 4): 0.100 bln. Euro (ERDF);
- Cultural heritage infrastructure (PO 5): 0.250 bln. Euro (ERDF);
- Tourism infrastructure (PO 5): 0.150 bln. Euro (ERDF);
- CLLD interventions (PO 5): 0.200 bln. Euro (ERDF);
- Other urban regeneration interventions (PO 5): 0.427 bln. Euro (ERDF);
- Administrative capacity of beneficiaries.

The financial allocation for urban development is subordinated to the development vision of the Ministry of Public Works, Development, and Administration Development (MLPDA) regarding urban development, materialized in the draft Law on the approval of the National Spatial Plan, which is under parliamentary procedure. For the purpose of the respective draft law, the basic administrative-territorial units with urban status in Romania are classified according to administrative and functional criteria as follows:

- **class A: the capital of Romania - Bucharest;**
- **class B: regional pole municipalities**
- **class C: county residence municipalities, other than those in classes A, B**
- **class D: municipalities, other than those in classes A, B, C.**
- **class E: towns**

Moreover, the National Spatial Plan proposal introduces the concept of functional urban area and the concept of peri-urban commune, proposes a methodology for defining functional urban areas and identifies the peri-urban communes that are part of the functional urban areas of class A, B, and C municipalities.

As such, the basic principle regarding the allocation of the amounts destined for urban development should be that two urban settlements, belonging to the same class and having the same population, should receive approximately the same financial allocation, regardless of the NUTS2 region in which they are located, in the context in which all the cities covered by this study are part of less developed regions.

Also, the allocation for sustainable urban development should be made according to the weight of the urban population of the respective region in the total urban population of Romania (except Bucharest-Ilfov), given that there are significant differences regarding the degree of urbanization between the regions. For example, the South-Muntenia region concentrates 16.2% of the population of Romania (with Bucharest-Ilfov excluded), but only 13.7% of the urban

¹⁰ These are meant for illustrative purposes, as real allocations and intervention types may vary based on the final versions of the Partnership Agreement and the operational programme documents.

¹¹ These are proposed based on the intervention types already covered in the 2007-2013, and the 2014-2020 programming periods, as well as the eligible intervention types laid out in the draft Cohesion Policy for 2021-2027.

population. Applying the 16.2% percentage to the allocation for sustainable urban development would be unfair, meaning basically that the cities in the South-Muntenia region receive 18% more funds per capita than the average of the other cities in the country.

In each of the 8 development regions of Romania, a Regional Operational Program will be elaborated, starting from the needs and the regional specificity, based on an allocation formula that takes into account the population with the domicile there on July 1, 2019.

The use of the population number as the only criterion in the allocation of funds is based on the principle of equity: considering that 7 development regions in Romania (except the Bucharest-Ilfov region, which is not the subject of the present study) belong to the category of less developed regions, the allocation of funds per capita would should be the same in all these NUTS2 regions.

It should also be kept in mind that the South-East and West regions are the only ones that will benefit from substantial funding through the ITI instrument, which will position them favorably in terms of per capita financial allocation, including in terms of sustainable urban development.

Using this formula, the allocation by region could look as follows:

TABLE 9.
Proposed allocation of ROP funds by region

Region	Population with domicile in the region on July 1, 2019	% of population with domicile in the region on July 1, 2019*	Total ROP Allocation (in Euro)
North-East	3.977.469	20,32	2.036.380.936
South-East	2.814.599	14,38	1.441.015.819
South	3.175.826	16,23	1.625.956.487
South-West	2.150.685	10,99	1.101.105.737
West	1.998.017	10,21	1.022.942.914
North-West	2.828.542	14,45	1.448.154.343
Center	2.625.974	13,42	1.344.443.764
TOTAL	19.571.112	100	10.020.000.000

*Without the population of the Bucharest-Ilfov Region

Data source: National Institute of Statistics

If the interventions that urban areas are not eligible for (e.g. interventions for county councils, or SMEs) are taken out, the total urban development allocation (excepting the Bucharest-Ilfov Region) comes down to around **4.2 bln Euro** – for both large and small urban areas. With national co-financing¹², the total sum would come up to around **5 bln. Euro**. Regardless of the scenario, the county residence municipalities, the other municipalities, and the towns, corresponding to classes B, C, D, E of the draft law on the National Spatial Plan - Section IV, would benefit from direct allocations from all the policy objectives, with the exception of policy objective 3.

The urban development allocations by region would then look as follows, taking the equity principle into consideration (with the same allocation per urban dweller across all regions):

¹² ERDS rules indicate that co-financing rates, from national and local level, should be at least 30% for the 2021-2027 Programming Period. For the purposes of this exercise, national co-financing is assumed to be 25%.

TABLE 11.
Proposed urban development allocations (in Euro) by region

Region	Urban population with domicile in the region on July 1, 2019	% regional urban population of total urban population*	Regional allocation for urban development
North-East	1.818.016	18,35	917.516.405
South-East**	1.444.641	14,58	729.081.491
South	1.360.025	13,73	686.377.484
South-West	1.073.906	10,84	541.978.933
West***	1.118.769	11,29	564.620.394
North-West	1.527.239	15,42	770.767.054
Center	1.564.671	15,79	789.658.238
TOTAL	9.907.267	100,00	5.000.000.000

* without Bucharest-Ilfov

** without the cities of Tulcea, Babadag, Isaccea, Măcin, Sulina, which are part of the Danube Delta ITI

*** without the cities of Aninoasa, Lupeni, Petrila, Petroșani, Uricani, Vulcan, which are part of the Jiu Valley ITI

Data source: National Institute of Statistics

Starting from the draft law on the National Spatial Plan - Section "Network of localities" mentioned above, the allocation for urban development at the level of each region was detailed for 3 categories of cities:

- **County residences** (which includes categories B and C in the future National Spatial Plan)
- **Municipalities other than county residences** (category D)
- **Towns** (category E)

In order to divide the 5 billion Euros of ROP allocated for Urban Development between these three categories, the principle of equity was used again, as detailed in the table below.

TABLE 11.
Regional share of people living in urban settlements, by categories

Region	Population of county residence municipalities*	Population of other municipalities	Population of towns	% county residence population in total regional urban population	% other municipalities population in total regional urban population	% town population in total regional urban population
North-East	1.062.784	425.717	329.515	58,46	23,42	18,12
South-East*	1.042.494	188.637	183.421	72,16	13,06	12,70
South	735.043	261.040	363.942	54,05	19,19	26,76
South-West	701.722	125.151	247.033	65,34	11,65	23,00
West	656.899	185.388	276.482	58,72	16,57	24,71
North-West	975.405	258.687	293.147	63,87	16,94	19,19
Center	785.139	426.468	353.064	50,18	27,26	22,56
TOTAL	5.959.486	1.871.088	2.046.604	60,15	18,89	20,66

* on July 1, 2019

** without the cities of Tulcea, Babadag, Isaccea, Măcin, Sulina, which are part of the Danube Delta ITI

*** without the cities of Aninoasa, Lupeni, Petrila, Petroșani, Uricani, Vulcan, which are part of the Jiu Valley ITI

Data source: National Institute of Statistics

Thus, at the level of each region, the funds for Urban Development were allocated by categories of urban settlements according to their weight in the total urban population of the respective region. Following these calculations, a national average percentage of about 60% was obtained for county residences (identical to the weight they take in the urban population of Romania, except for the Bucharest-Ilfov region), respectively 19% for other municipalities and 21% for cities.

Overall, the per capita allocation respects the principle of equity between the different categories of cities (the allocation per inhabitant at the level of a residence is approximately equal to the allocation per inhabitant at the level of a non-resident municipality), with the mention that for county residence municipalities an additional 15% of the regional urban development allocation is proposed for projects implemented in partnership by the respective municipality with other UATs in the functional urban area (i.e. inter-jurisdictional projects). This additional allocation for county residences comes to respond to a socio-economic reality: around these type of municipalities, neighborhoods-dormitories have appeared in recent years, most often with formal rural status, but which are functionally dependent on the relationship with the core city, generating substantial inter-jurisdictional traffic and overloading the transport infrastructure, the utilities infrastructure, the educational infrastructure, the health infrastructure, etc. Basically, this allocation is a recognition of the fact that the respective areas are also inhabited by de facto urban population. According to the proposals of the National Spatial Plan, these "rural areas" are now delimited as peri-urban communes, with a special status.

TABLE 12.
Regional allocation (in Euro) for urban settlements and functional urban areas

Region	Regional allocation for urban development	Regional allocation for county residences	Regional allocation for other municipalities	Regional allocation for towns	Regional allocations for inter-jurisdictional projects undertaken at the level of functional urban areas of county residences
North-East	917,516,405	536,365,882	169,499,235	131,196,406	80,454,882
South-East*	729,081,491	526,125,924	62,887,795	61,148,885	78,918,889
South	686,377,484	370,961,538	108,500,419	151,271,297	55,644,231
South-West	541,978,933	354,145,094	45,298,430	89,413,645	53,121,764
West	564,620,394	331,523,820	73,601,288	109,766,713	49,728,573
North-West	770,767,054	492,267,444	95,939,631	108,719,863	73,840,117
Center	789,658,238	396,243,989	182,713,193	151,264,457	59,436,598
TOTAL	5,000,000,000	3,007,633,689	738,439,991	802,781,266	451,145,053

Using this approach, the allocation for county residences could be as proposed in the table below. In this proposal, each county residence will have access for 2 years to 70% of the ring-fenced amounts, and, if it fails to contract these 70% within 2 years, it loses the remaining 30% of the allocation (referred to in the table "performance reserve"), which together with other savings is cumulated in a common pool, available to all county residences in the respective region.

Also, in order to benefit from the predefined allocation, each county residence should propose within its integrated urban development strategy, and commit from the local budget, at least 25% of the allocation received under the ROP for complementary projects in the logic of the integrated urban development strategy, as a way of implementing in a complimentary fashion projects with European funding and with local resources.

In order to encourage the county residence municipalities to submit strategic documents and projects at the level of a functional urban area, a bonus allocation of 15%, on top of the pre-allocation is proposed, as mentioned above and as highlighted in the tables (70 + 30%), which can only be accessed for projects in partnership with at least one other locality from the functional urban area, as the FUA was defined in the new version of the National Spatial Plan - Section IV. If, within 3 years, the municipality fails to contract the respective bonus-allocation, the funds are moved to a common pool, available to all the county residence municipalities in the respective region, but exclusively for inter-jurisdictional projects at the level of their functional urban areas.

TABLE 13.
Proposal of ROPs allocations for county residences

Locality	Population	% of regional county residences' population	Estimated capital investments budget for 2021-2029 (in Euro)	Regional allocation for county residences (in Euro)	
				Regional allocation for county residences (in Euro)	Allocation by county residence (in Euro)
Bacău	197,386	19	213,667,568	536,365,882	100,936,242
Botoșani	120,535	11	92,838,228		61,637,350
Iași	376,180	36	332,826,697		192,365,191
Piatra Neamț	113,164	11	114,727,703		57,868,080
Suceava	124,161	12	140,278,476		63,491,558
Vaslui	117,465	11	54,536,763		60,067,460
TOTAL	1,048,891	100	948,875,435		536,365,882
Locality	Total allocation per county residence (in Euro)	Guaranteed allocation (70% of total allocation) for county residence (in Euro)	Performance reserve for contracting the guaranteed allocation within 2 years (in Euro)	Allocation for inter-jurisdictional projects at the functional urban area level (in Euro)	
				Allocation for inter-jurisdictional projects at the functional urban area level (in Euro)	Total allocation for the county residence and the functional urban area (in Euro)
Bacău	100,936,242	70,655,369	30,280,873	15,140,436	116,076,678
Botoșani	61,637,350	43,146,145	18,491,205	9,245,602	70,882,952
Iași	192,365,191	134,655,634	57,709,557	28,854,779	221,219,969
Piatra Neamț	57,868,080	40,507,656	17,360,424	8,680,212	66,548,292
Suceava	63,491,558	44,444,091	19,047,468	9,523,734	73,015,292
Vaslui	60,067,460	42,047,222	18,020,238	9,010,119	69,077,579
TOTAL	536,365,882	375,456,117	160,909,765	80,454,882	616,820,764

SOUTH-EAST REGION*	Locality	Population	% of regional county residences' population	Estimated capital investments budget for 2021-2029 (in Euro)	Regional allocation for county residences (in Euro)	Allocation by county residence (in Euro)
	Brăila	203,876	19	169,176,837		102,526,886
	Bužău	132,734	13	156,373,694		66,750,396
	Constanța	313,931	30	394,015,461	526,125,924	157,872,275
	Focșani	92,609	9	91,088,969		46,571,997
	Galați	303,058	29	301,514,078		152,404,369
	TOTAL	1,046,208	100	1,112,169,039	526,125,924	526,125,924

* without the Tulcea municipality, which will be included in the Danube Delta ITI

SOUTH-EAST REGION*	Locality	Total allocation per county residence (in Euro)	Guaranteed allocation (70% of total allocation) for county residence (in Euro)	Performance reserve for contracting the guaranteed allocation within 2 years (in Euro)	Allocation for inter-jurisdictional projects at the functional urban area level (in Euro)	Total allocation for the county residence and the functional urban area (in Euro)
	Brăila	102,526,886	71,768,820	30,758,066	15,379,033	117,905,919
	Bužău	66,750,396	46,725,277	20,025,119	10,012,559	76,762,955
	Constanța	157,872,275	110,510,593	47,361,683	23,680,841	181,553,116
	Focșani	46,571,997	32,600,398	13,971,599	6,985,800	53,557,796
	Galați	152,404,369	106,683,058	45,721,311	22,860,655	175,265,024
	TOTAL	526,125,924	368,288,146	157,837,777	78,918,889	605,044,812

SOUTH-MUNTENIA REGION	Locality	Population	% of regional county residences' population	Estimated capital investments budget for 2021-2029 (in Euro)	Regional allocation for county residences (in Euro)	Allocation by county residence (in Euro)
	Alexandria	50,524	7	52,446,111		25,290,671
	Călărași	76,147	10	67,246,490		38,116,711
	Giurgiu	67,402	9	59,007,416		33,739,248
	Pitești	174,481	24	199,099,258	370,961,538	87,339,512
	Ploiești	228,550	31	308,172,351		114,404,694
	Slobozia	51,999	7	55,166,784		26,029,008
	Târgoviște	91,979	12	112,071,656		46,041,695
	TOTAL	741,082	100	853,210,066	370,961,538	370,961,538

SOUTH-MUNTENIA REGION	Locality	Total allocation per county residence (in Euro)	Guaranteed allocation (70% of total allocation) for county residence (in Euro)	Performance reserve for contracting the guaranteed allocation within 2 years (in Euro)	Allocation for inter-jurisdictional projects at the functional urban area level (in Euro)	Total allocation for the county residence and the functional urban area (in Euro)
	Alexandria	25,290,671	17,703,469	7,587,201	3,793,601	29,084,271
	Călărași	38,116,711	26,681,697	11,435,013	5,717,507	43,834,217
	Giurgiu	33,739,248	23,617,474	10,121,774	5,060,887	38,800,135
	Pitești	87,339,512	61,137,658	26,201,854	13,100,927	100,440,439
	Ploiești	114,404,694	80,083,286	34,321,408	17,160,704	131,565,398
	Slobozia	26,029,008	18,220,305	7,808,702	3,904,351	29,933,359
	Târgoviște	46,041,695	32,229,186	13,812,508	6,906,254	52,947,949
	TOTAL	370,961,538	259,673,076	111,288,461	55,644,231	426,605,768

SOUTH-OLTENIA REGION	Locality	Population	% of regional county residences' population	Estimated capital investments budget for 2021-2029 (in Euro)	Regional allocation for county residences (in Euro)	Allocation by county residence (in Euro)
	Craiova	310,924	44	311,010,624		154,077,866
	Drobeta-Turnu Severin	107,153	15	98,774,636		53,099,489
	Râmnicu Vâlcea	117,888	16	134,585,494	354,145,094	58,419,200
	Slatina	83,093	12	108,849,540		41,176,597
	Târgu Jiu	95,595	13	96,124,581		47,371,942
	TOTAL	714,653	100	749,344,875	354,145,094	354,145,094

SOUTH-WEST OLTENIA REGION	Locality	Total allocation per county residence (in Euro)	Guaranteed allocation (70% of total allocation) for county residence (in Euro)	Performance reserve for contracting the guaranteed allocation within 2 years (in Euro)	Allocation for inter-jurisdictional projects at the functional urban area level (in Euro)	Total allocation for the county residence and the functional urban area (in Euro)
	Craiova	154,077,866	107,854,506	46,223,360	23,111,680	177,189,546
	Drobeta-Turnu Severin	53,099,489	37,169,642	15,929,847	7,964,923	61,064,413
	Râmnicu Vâlcea	58,419,200	40,893,440	17,525,760	8,762,880	67,182,080
	Slatina	41,176,597	28,823,618	12,352,979	6,176,489	47,353,086
	Târgu Jiu	47,371,942	33,160,359	14,211,583	7,105,791	54,477,733
	TOTAL	354,145,094	247,901,566	106,243,528	53,121,764	407,266,858

WEST REGION	Locality	Population	% of regional county residences' population	Estimated capital investments budget for 2021-2029 (in Euro)	Regional allocation for county residences (in Euro)	Allocation by county residence (in Euro)
	Arad	177,013	27	263,893,016	331,523,820	88,731,409
	Deva	69,387	10	90,416,832		34,781,662
	Reșița	85,964	13	81,817,762		43,091,224
	Timișoara	329,003	50	473,288,443		164,919,525
	TOTAL	661,367	100	909,416,053		331,523,820
	Locality	Total allocation per county residence (in Euro)	Guaranteed allocation (70% of total allocation) for county residence (in Euro)	Performance reserve for contracting the guaranteed allocation within 2 years (in Euro)		Allocation for inter-jurisdictional projects at the functional urban area level (in Euro)
Arad	88,731,409	62,111,986	26,619,423	13,309,711	102,041,121	
Deva	34,781,662	24,347,163	10,434,499	5,217,249	39,998,911	
Reșița	43,091,224	30,163,857	12,927,367	6,463,684	49,554,908	
Timișoara	164,919,525	115,443,667	49,475,857	24,737,929	189,657,453	
TOTAL	331,523,820	232,066,674	99,457,146	49,728,573	381,252,393	

NORTH-WEST REGION	Locality	Population	% of regional county residences' population	Estimated capital investments budget for 2021-2029 (in Euro)	Regional allocation for county residences (in Euro)	Allocation by county residence (in Euro)
	Baia Mare	145,718	15	138,228,383	492,267,444	73,557,181
	Bistrița	94,024	10	93,514,267		47,462,499
	Cluj-Napoca	324,267	33	475,891,989		163,687,166
	Oradea	221,398	23	256,106,200		111,759,788
	Satu Mare	120,307	12	120,885,150		60,729,929
	Zalău	69,476	7	64,393,039		35,070,881
TOTAL	975,190	100	1,149,019,028	492,267,444		
Locality	Total allocation per county residence (in Euro)	Guaranteed allocation (70% of total allocation) for county residence (in Euro)	Performance reserve for contracting the guaranteed allocation within 2 years (in Euro)	Allocation for inter-jurisdictional projects at the functional urban area level (in Euro)	Total allocation for the county residence and the functional urban area (in Euro)	
Baia Mare	73,557,181	51,490,027	22,067,154	11,033,577	84,590,758	
Bistrița	47,462,499	33,223,749	14,238,750	7,119,375	54,581,874	
Cluj-Napoca	163,687,166	114,581,016	49,106,150	24,553,075	188,240,241	
Oradea	111,759,788	78,231,851	33,527,936	16,763,968	128,523,756	
Satu Mare	60,729,929	42,510,950	18,218,979	9,109,489	69,839,418	
Zalău	35,070,881	24,549,617	10,521,264	5,260,632	40,331,514	
TOTAL	492,267,444	344,587,211	147,680,233	73,840,117	566,107,560	

CENTER REGION	Locality	Population	% of regional county residences' population	Estimated capital investments budget for 2021-2029 (in Euro)	Regional allocation for county residences (in Euro)	Allocation by county residence (in Euro)
	Alba Iulia	74,233	9	89,943,358	396,243,989	37,367,537
	Brașov	289,360	37	398,334,589		145,658,542
	Miercurea-Ciuc	42,120	5	54,997,069		21,202,439
	Sfântu Gheorghe	65,080	8	60,555,334		32,760,084
	Sibiu	168,697	21	241,837,912		84,918,991
	Târgu Mureș	147,674	19	209,001,407		74,336,396
TOTAL	787,164	100	1,054,669,669	396,243,989		
Locality	Total allocation per county residence (in Euro)	Guaranteed allocation (70% of total allocation) for county residence (in Euro)	Performance reserve for contracting the guaranteed allocation within 2 years (in Euro)	Allocation for inter-jurisdictional projects at the functional urban area level (in Euro)	Total allocation for the county residence and the functional urban area (in Euro)	
Alba Iulia	37,367,537	26,157,276	11,210,261	5,605,131	42,972,668	
Brașov	145,658,542	101,960,980	43,697,563	21,848,781	167,507,324	
Miercurea-Ciuc	21,202,439	14,841,707	6,360,732	3,180,366	24,382,805	
Sfântu Gheorghe	32,760,084	22,932,059	9,828,025	4,914,013	37,674,097	
Sibiu	84,918,991	59,443,293	25,475,697	12,737,849	97,656,839	
Târgu Mureș	74,336,396	52,035,477	22,300,919	11,150,459	85,486,855	
TOTAL	396,243,989	277,370,793	118,873,197	59,436,598	455,680,588	

Regarding the allocations for the other municipalities (category D of the PATN), a methodology similar to the one used to establish the allocations of county residence municipalities was applied. Thus, the regional allocation for this category was divided by municipalities according to their weight in the total urban population of their respective urban category. The allocations resulted at the municipality level are presented below:

TABLE 14.
Proposal for ROPs allocations for other municipalities

NORTH-EAST REGION	Locality	Population	% of total "other municipalities" population in the region	Regional allocation for other municipalities (in Euro)	Allocation by municipality (in Euro)
	Bârlad	70,176	16	169,499,235	27,940,576
	Câmpulung Moldovenesc	20,114	5		8,008,390
	Dorohoi	30,377	7		12,094,603
	Fălticeni	31,082	7		12,375,299
	Huși	33,937	8		13,512,017
	Moinești	24,067	6		9,582,277
	Onești	50,719	12		20,193,771
	Pașcani	44,545	10		17,735,593
	Rădăuți	34,984	8		13,928,881
Roman	69,128	16	27,523,315		
Vatra Dornei	16,588	4	6,604,513		
TOTAL	425,717	100	169,499,235	83,513,163	

Locality	Total allocation per municipality	Guaranteed allocation (70% of total allocation) per municipality (in Euro)	Performance reserve for contracting the guaranteed allocation within 2 years (in Euro)
Bârlad	27,940,576	19,558,403	8,382,173
Câmpulung Moldovenesc	8,008,390	5,605,873	2,402,517
Dorohoi	12,094,603	8,466,222	3,628,381
Fălticeni	12,375,299	8,662,709	3,712,590
Huși	13,512,017	9,458,412	4,053,605
Moinești	9,582,277	6,707,594	2,874,683
Onești	20,193,771	14,135,640	6,058,131
Pașcani	17,735,593	12,414,915	5,320,678
Rădăuți	13,928,881	9,750,216	4,178,664
Roman	27,523,315	19,266,321	8,256,995
Vatra Dornei	6,604,513	4,623,159	1,981,354
TOTAL	169,499,235	118,649,465	50,849,771

SOUTH-EAST REGION	Locality	Population	% of total "other municipalities" population in the region	Regional allocation for other municipalities (in Euro)	Allocation by municipality (in Euro)	
	Adjud	20,087	11	62,887,795	6,696,603	
	Mangalia	40,596	22		13,533,893	
	Medgidia	44,722	24		14,909,418	
	Râmnicu Sărat	39,481	21		13,162,174	
	Tecuci	43,751	23		14,585,707	
	TOTAL	188,637	100		62,887,795	62,887,795

Locality	Total allocation per municipality	Guaranteed allocation (70% of total allocation) per municipality (in Euro)	Performance reserve for contracting the guaranteed allocation within 2 years (in Euro)
Adjud	6,696,603	4,687,622	2,008,981
Mangalia	13,533,893	9,473,725	4,060,168
Medgidia	14,909,418	10,436,593	4,472,826
Râmnicu Sărat	13,162,174	9,213,522	3,948,652
Tecuci	14,585,707	10,209,995	4,375,712
TOTAL	62,887,795	44,021,457	18,866,339

SOUTH-MUNTENIA REGION	Locality	Population	% of total "other municipalities" population in the region	Regional allocation for other municipalities (in Euro)	Allocation by municipality (in Euro)
	Câmpina	36,356	14	108,500,419	15,111,252
	Câmpulung	35,273	14		14,661,107
	Curtea de Argeș	32,414	12		13,472,773
	Fetești	34,635	13		14,395,924
	Moreni	19,612	8		8,151,663
	Oltenița	27,115	10		11,270,261
	Roșiorii de Vede	30,800	12		12,801,919
	Turnu Măgurele	28,106	11		11,682,167
	Urgiceni	16,729	6		6,953,354
TOTAL	261,040	100	108,500,419		108,500,419

SOUTH-MUNTENIA REGION	Locality	Total allocation per municipality	Guaranteed allocation (70% of total allocation) per municipality (in Euro)	Performance reserve for contracting the guaranteed allocation within 2 years (in Euro)
	Câmpina	15,111,252	10,577,876	4,533,376
	Câmpulung	14,661,107	10,262,775	4,398,332
	Curtea de Argeș	13,472,773	9,430,941	4,041,832
	Fetești	14,395,924	10,077,147	4,318,777
	Moreni	8,151,663	5,706,164	2,445,499
	Oltenița	11,270,261	7,889,183	3,381,078
	Roșorii de Vede	12,801,919	8,961,343	3,840,576
	Turnu Măgurele	11,682,167	8,177,517	3,504,650
	Urgiceni	6,953,354	4,867,348	2,086,006
TOTAL	108,500,419	75,950,293	32,550,126	

SOUTH-WEST OLTENIA REGION	Locality	Population	% of total "other municipalities" population in the region	Regional allocation for other municipalities (in Euro)	Allocation by municipality (in Euro)	
	Băilești	19,373	15	45,298,430	7,012,061	
	Calafat	17,747	14		6,423,530	
	Caracal	33,782	27		12,227,402	
	Drăgășani	20,221	16		7,318,995	
	Moreni	21,701	17		7,854,681	
	Orșova	12,327	10		4,461,760	
	TOTAL	125,151	100		45,298,430	45,298,430

SOUTH-WEST OLTENIA REGION	Locality	Total allocation per municipality	Guaranteed allocation (70% of total allocation) per municipality (in Euro)	Performance reserve for contracting the guaranteed allocation within 2 years (in Euro)
	Băilești	7,012,061	4,908,443	2,103,618
	Calafat	6,423,530	4,496,471	1,927,059
	Caracal	12,227,402	8,559,181	3,668,221
	Drăgășani	7,318,995	5,123,297	2,195,699
	Moreni	7,854,681	5,498,277	2,356,404
	Orșova	4,461,760	3,123,232	1,338,528
	TOTAL	45,298,430	31,708,901	13,589,529

WEST REGION	Locality	Population	% of total "other municipalities" population in the region	Regional allocation for other municipalities (in Euro)	Allocation by municipality (in Euro)	
	Brad	15,361	8	73,601,288	6,098,504	
	Caransebeș	29,642	16		11,768,234	
	Hunedoara	71,899	39		28,544,776	
	Lugoj	46,589	25		18,496,399	
	Orăștie	21,897	12		8,693,375	
	TOTAL	185,388	100		73,601,288	73,601,288

WEST REGION	Locality	Total allocation per municipality	Guaranteed allocation (70% of total allocation) per municipality (in Euro)	Performance reserve for contracting the guaranteed allocation within 2 years (in Euro)
	Brad	6,098,504	4,268,953	1,829,551
	Caransebeș	11,768,234	8,237,764	3,530,470
	Hunedoara	28,544,776	19,981,343	8,563,433
	Lugoj	18,496,399	12,947,479	5,548,920
	Orăștie	8,693,375	6,085,362	2,608,012
	TOTAL	73,601,288	51,520,902	22,080,386

NORTH-WEST REGION	Locality	Population	% of total "other municipalities" population in the region	Regional allocation for other municipalities (in Euro)	Allocation by municipality (in Euro)
	Beiuș	11,053	4	95,939,631	4,099,242
	Câmpia Turzii	27,403	11		10,162,991
	Carei	24,086	9		8,932,811
	Dej	38,176	15		14,158,390
	Gherla	22,915	9		8,498,520
	Marghita	17,648	7		6,545,140
	Salonta	18,840	7		6,987,219
	Sighetu Marmăției	43,174	17		16,012,005
	Turda	55,392	21		20,543,313
TOTAL	258,687	100	95,939,631		95,939,631

NORTH-WEST REGION	Locality	Total allocation per municipality	Guaranteed allocation (70% of total allocation) per municipality (in Euro)	Performance reserve for contracting the guaranteed allocation within 2 years (in Euro)
	Beiuș	4,099,242	2,869,470	1,229,773
	Câmpia Turzii	10,162,991	7,114,094	3,048,897
	Carei	8,932,811	6,252,967	2,679,843
	Dej	14,158,390	9,910,873	4,247,517
	Gherla	8,498,520	5,948,964	2,549,556
	Marghita	6,545,140	4,581,598	1,963,542
	Salonta	6,987,219	4,891,053	2,096,166
	Sighetu Marmatiei	16,012,005	11,208,404	4,803,602
	Turda	20,543,313	14,380,319	6,162,994
TOTAL	95,939,631	67,157,742	28,781,889	

CENTER REGION	Locality	Population	% of total "other municipalities" population in the region	Regional allocation for other municipalities (in Euro)	Allocation by municipality (in Euro)
	Aiud	25,506	6	182,713,193	10,927,626
	Blaj	20,649	5		8,846,724
	Codlea	25,809	6		11,057,441
	Făgăraș	38,503	9		16,495,976
	Gheorgheni	19,649	5		8,418,291
	Mediaș	56,885	13		24,371,442
	Odorheiu Secuiesc	38,095	9		16,321,176
	Reghin	37,698	9		16,151,087
	Săcele	36,613	9		15,686,237
	Sebeș	32,610	8		13,971,218
	Sighișoara	33,375	8		14,298,969
	Târgu Secuiesc	19,689	5		8,435,428
	Târnăveni	25,693	6		11,007,743
Toplița	15,694	4	6,723,836		
TOTAL	426,468	100	182,713,193	182,713,193	

CENTER REGION	Locality	Total allocation per municipality	Guaranteed allocation (70% of total allocation) per municipality (in Euro)	Performance reserve for contracting the guaranteed allocation within 2 years (in Euro)
	Aiud	10,927,626	7,649,338	3,278,288
	Blaj	8,846,724	6,192,707	2,654,017
	Codlea	11,057,441	7,740,209	3,317,232
	Făgăraș	16,495,976	11,547,183	4,948,793
	Gheorgheni	8,418,291	5,892,803	2,525,487
	Mediaș	24,371,442	17,060,009	7,311,432
	Odorheiu Secuiesc	16,321,176	11,424,823	4,896,353
	Reghin	16,151,087	11,305,761	4,845,326
	Săcele	15,686,237	10,980,366	4,705,871
	Sebeș	13,971,218	9,779,852	4,191,365
	Sighișoara	14,298,969	10,009,278	4,289,691
	Târgu Secuiesc	8,435,428	5,904,800	2,530,628
	Târnăveni	11,007,743	7,705,420	3,302,323
	Toplița	6,723,836	4,706,685	2,017,151
TOTAL	182,713,193	127,899,235	54,813,958	

Similarly, for these municipalities, the performance reserve rule of 30% is kept, meaning that if within 2 years the municipality fails to contract 70% of the total allocation, the remaining 30% of it is transferred to a common fund available to all municipalities in this category in the respective region. In contrast, these municipalities do not benefit from the bonus allocation dedicated to working with neighboring UATs, as their functional urban areas are generally poorly defined.

In the case of cities (category E from PATN), the distribution of regional allocations dedicated to this category at the level of urban center took into account their heterogeneity (cities have a population ranging between 1,500 inhabitants in Băile Tușnad and over 40,000 inhabitants in Năvodari). Therefore, in order to respect the same principle of equity (there are, in fact, more towns with a population larger than some municipalities in category D), it is proposed to break down the regional allocation for towns into 3 sub-categories:

- **towns with over 30,000 inhabitants**, which could submit projects with a maximum value of 20 million Euro;
- **towns with a population between 20,000 and 30,000 inhabitants**, which could submit projects worth up to 15 million Euros;
- **towns with less than 20,000 inhabitants**, which could submit projects of up to 10 million Euros each. Regarding the latter sub-category, the recommendation is to finance projects of towns with more than 10,000 inhabitants as a priority, and towns with less than 10,000 inhabitants will benefit from funds only within the limits of the remaining non-contracted amounts.

However, for each of these towns, regardless of the subcategory, a pre-allocation has not been established, the proposal being to organize competitive calls for projects for each subcategory, given that the budget will not allow the financing of all the approximately 200 cities in Romania. Given the large number of towns, it is important to have concentration in the number and size of the financed towns, and in the value of financed projects, to ensure an adequate territorial impact.

TABLE 15.
Porposal for ROPs allocations for towns

REGION	Regional allocation for towns	Maximum number of strategies, for towns with at least 30,000 inhabitants, with allocations of up to 20 mil. Euro will be available	Eligible towns with over 30,000 residents	Maximum budget for towns with over 30,000 residents	Maximum number of strategies, for towns with 20,000-30,000 inhabitants, with allocations of up to 15 mil. Euro will be available	Eligible towns with 20,000-30,000 residents	Maximum budget for towns with 20,000-30,000 residents	Estimated number (at an average of 7.5 mil. Euro/strategy) of strategies, for towns with less than 20,000 residents, with allocations of up to 10 mil. Euro	Eligible towns with less than 20,000 people	Maximum budget for towns with less than 20,000 residents
NORTH-EAST	131.196.406	0	n.a.	0	3	Buhuși, Comănești, Târgu Neamț	45.000.000	11	26	86.196.406
SOUTH-EAST	61.148.885	1	Năvodari	20.000.000	0	n.a.	0	5	19	41.148.885
SOUTH-MUNTENIA	151.271.297	1	Mioveni	20.000.000	0	n.a.	0	17	31	131.271.297
SOUTH-WEST OLTENIA	89.413.645	0	n.a.	0	1	Balș	15.000.000	10	28	74.413.645
WEST	109.766.713	0	n.a.	0	0	n.a.	0	15	27	109.766.713
NORTH-WEST	108.719.863	0	n.a.	0	1	Borșa	15.000.000	12	27	93.719.863
CENTER	151.264.457	0	n.a.	0	2	Zărnești, Cîsnădie	30.000.000	16	35	121.264.457
TOTAL	802.781.266	2		40.000.000	7		105.000.000	86	193	657.781.266

CONCLUSION

In addition to the proposals and recommendations above, in order to further advance the gains made in enabling inter-jurisdictional cooperation in Romania, the following should be borne in mind:

Clear eligibility criteria give certainty to qualifying institutions and enable them to build long-term capacity (technical and financial) in anticipation of investment flows. In the absence of a national urban policy, multi-factor criteria (population size, economic profile, geographic location, etc.) can be used to determine qualifying areas and on the basis of need and available resources, determine investment envelope.

Integrated and targeted financial instruments would further reinforce the growth of these areas. This integration is two pronged, firstly within EU, appreciating the overlaps between allocations towards various policy objectives and SUD. By their nature, these areas will be recipients of funds from other policy objectives and these need to be well integrated with SUD investments. The second areas of integration relate to EU, national and sub-national budget allocations. There currently appears to be focus only on EU funds with little reference to national and locally raised funds and how these are deployed to advance the same development agenda.

A progressive approach to decentralization informed by well-articulated national legislative frameworks and assessment of capacity. This decentralization should seek to strengthen the nexus between attributions, authority, resources and accountability.

The importance of well capacitated sub-national institutions cannot be overstated as it is the bedrock of all implementation. Rather than disparate capacity building initiatives, consideration should be given to a single urban support program, which directs appropriate support based on a deep needs assessment.

There is a saying that “streets are forever” and investment in infrastructure now, will shape development patterns hundreds of years ahead. Romania’s development and growth path is not yet known, but there is clear evidence that cities will be the main actors. And, the way Romanian cities develop now, will define how Romania will look tomorrow. Consequently, available EU funds, along with other sources of financing, should be used strategically to ensure that Romania urban areas develop and grow in a sustainable, inclusive, and competitive fashion.

ANNEX 1. Potential areas/sectors for inter-jurisdictional cooperation in Romania

Area/sector of intervention	Potential interventions / measures suitable for multi-jurisdictional arrangements	Eligibility for EU funding in the 2021-2027 programming period	Eligibility for state budget-funded programs
Administrative capacity	Territorial, strategic and financial planning	ESF	PUG
	- Metropolitan urban plans		
	- General urban plans		
	- SUMP		
	- IUDS		
	- Public policies and program-based budgeting		
	- Green cadaster		
	Human resources in local administration	ESF	INA ANFP
	- Competencies building and training (e.g. Public procurement)		
	- Project implementation units.		
	Management and administrative processes and tools	ESF	No
	- One-stop shops for citizens and companies		
	- Quality management standards, procedures		
	- Urban/metropolitan authorities		
Transport	Public transport	ERDF	No
	- Subway extension		
	- Metropolitan railway systems		
	- Extension and rehabilitation of tram lines		
	- Extension / modernization of public transport stations / terminals		
	- Bus Rapid Transit systems		
	- E-ticketing		
	- Electric public transport fleet		
	Multi-modal transport	CF	No
	- Intermodal freight transport infrastructure		
	- Park & rides / Bike & rides		
	- Intermodal passenger terminals		
	Non-motorized transport and E-mobility	ERDF	AFM
	- Bicycle lanes and bike sharing systems		
	- Pedestrian and shared-space areas		
	- Charging stations for electric vehicles		

Area/sector of intervention	Potential interventions / measures suitable for multi-jurisdictional arrangements	Eligibility for EU funding in the 2021-2027 programming period	Eligibility for state budget-funded programs
	Accessibility	CF	PNDL
	- Roads and bypasses		
	- Traffic management systems		
Climate change and risk management	Risk mitigation	CF	MPWDA Apele Romane ANIF
	- Consolidation of seismic-risk buildings;		
	- Flood protection measures;		
	- Landslide protection measures.		
	Emergency response	CF	No
	- Investments in professional and voluntary emergency situation services (buildings, equipment, training);		
	- Development of integrated multi-risk intervention centers;		
	- Mountain and sea rescue centers.		
Low carbon and energy efficiency	Energy generation, transmission and distribution	CF	MPWDA
	- Modernization of district heating systems, including co-generation;		
	- Use of renewable energy for public building;		
	- Smart metering and energy consumption monitoring;		
	- Extension of energy and gas distribution networks.		
	Energy efficiency	ERDF	MPWDA
	- Thermal rehabilitation of blocks of flats;		
	- Thermal rehabilitation of public buildings;		
	- Energy efficient public lighting.		
Education	Basic education	ERDF	PNDL MEN
	- Nurseries and kindergartens;		
	- Schools;		
	- High-schools.		
	Technical and vocational education	ERDF	MEN
	- Campuses for vocational training		
	Special education	ERDF	MEN
	- Special educational facilities		
	Higher education	ERDF	MEN
	- Campuses for higher education		

Area/sector of intervention	Potential interventions / measures suitable for multi-jurisdictional arrangements	Eligibility for EU funding in the 2021-2027 programming period	Eligibility for state budget-funded programs
Health	Medical infrastructure	ERDF	MS / PNDL
	- Building regional emergency hospitals;		
	- Investments in municipal emergency hospitals and units; - Investments in ambulatories and local basic medical care centers.		
Environment and biodiversity	Waste management	CF	AFM
	- Promotion of separation at source waste collection		
	Water and waste water	CF	PNDL / AFM
	- Extension of water and waste water infrastructure to areas not covered by Regional Water and Wastewater Masterplans		
	Biodiversity	CF	No
	- Implementation of management plans for NATURA 2000 areas		
	Brownfields	CF	No
	- Public and private brownfields for other functions		
Social inclusion and employment	Social services	ESF	MMFPS
	- Social and healthcare daycare centers and services for vulnerable groups;		
	- Home care for vulnerable groups; - Protected homes for vulnerable groups.		
	Marginalized and disadvantaged communities	ERDF	No
		ESF	
	- Integrated measures for addressing marginalized neighborhoods; - Integrated renewal measures for communist districts / collective housing; - Integrated renewal measures for new residential area lacking basic infrastructure.		
	Housing	ERDF	ANL
			Prima Casa
	- Affordable housing;		
	- Social and emergency housing.		

Area/sector of intervention	Potential interventions / measures suitable for multi-jurisdictional arrangements	Eligibility for EU funding in the 2021-2027 programming period	Eligibility for state budget-funded programs
	Employment	ESF	ANOFM
	- Youth employment (competence development and evaluation, employment services, internships etc.);		
	- Access to the labor markets for informal workers and unemployed (training, employment services, social economy etc.); - Social economy.		
R&D and innovation	R&D	ERDF	PNCDI
	- Support for public R&D infrastructure;		
	- Support for R&D partnerships between companies and public bodies.		
	Knowledge and technology transfer	ERDF	No
	- Public and private innovation and technology transfer infrastructure and services		
Digitalization	Broadband	CF	No
	- Extension of broadband infrastructure		
	- Public Wi-fi hotspots		
	E-public services	ERDF	No
	- Implementation of e-governance, e-health, e-learning, e-culture tools		
	IT&C private sector	ERDF	Start Up Nation
	- Support for the IT&C companies and clusters		
Cultural heritage and tourism	Leisure infrastructure	ERDF	CNI
	- Public leisure facilities		
	Tourism resources	ERDF	MT
	- Valorization of natural tourism resources; - Development of health tourism; - Basic infrastructure for tourism areas; - Tourism marketing and promotion.		
	Cultural heritage	ERDF	MC
	- Historic centers; - Monuments of national importance.		
Competitiveness	SMEs and entrepreneurship	ERDF	Start Up Nation
	- Support infrastructure and services for SMEs		

ANNEX 3. Identification of Interventions Fields relevant for Romanian Cities, from the draft Cohesion Policy 2021-2027

INTERVENTION FIELD		Coefficient for the calculation of support to climate change objectives	Coefficient for the calculation of support to environmental objectives
POLICY OBJECTIVE 1: A smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation			
001	Investment in fixed assets in micro enterprises directly linked to research and innovation activities	0 %	0 %
002	Investment in fixed assets in small and medium-sized enterprises (including private research centres) directly linked to research and innovation activities	0 %	0 %
003	Investment in fixed assets in public research centres and higher education directly linked to research and innovation activities	0 %	0 %
004	Investment in intangible assets in micro enterprises directly linked to research and innovation activities	0 %	0 %
005	Investment in intangible assets in small and medium-sized enterprises (including private research centres) directly linked to research and innovation activities	0 %	0 %
006	Investment in intangible assets in public research centres and higher education directly linked to research and innovation activities	0 %	0 %
007	Research and innovation activities in micro enterprises including networking (industrial research, experimental development, feasibility studies)	0 %	0 %
008	Research and innovation activities in small and medium-sized enterprises, including networking	0 %	0 %
009	Research and innovation activities in public research centres, higher education and centres of competence including networking (industrial research, experimental development, feasibility studies)	0 %	0 %
010	Digitizing SMEs (including e-Commerce, e-Business and networked business processes, digital innovation hubs, living labs, web entrepreneurs and ICT start-ups, B2B)	0 %	0 %
011	Government ICT solutions, e-services, applications	0 %	0 %
012	IT services and applications for digital skills and digital inclusion	0 %	0 %
013	e-Health services and applications (including e-Care, Internet of Things for physical activity and ambient assisted living)	0 %	0 %
014	Business infrastructure for SMEs (including industrial parks and sites)	0 %	0 %
015	SME business development and internationalisation	0 %	0 %
016	Skills development for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship	0 %	0 %
017	Advanced support services for SMEs and groups of SMEs (including management, marketing and design services)	0 %	0 %
018	Incubation, support to spin offs and spin outs and start ups	0 %	0 %

INTERVENTION FIELD		Coefficient for the calculation of support to climate change objectives	Coefficient for the calculation of support to environmental objectives
019	Innovation cluster support and business networks primarily benefiting SMEs	0 %	0 %
020	Innovation processes in SMEs (process, organisational, marketing, co-creation, user and demand driven innovation)	0 %	0 %
021	Technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and higher education sector	0 %	0 %
022	Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises focusing on the low carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change	100 %	40 %
023	Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises focusing on circular economy	40 %	100 %
POLICY OBJECTIVE 2: A greener, low carbon Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management			
024	Energy efficiency and demonstration projects in SMEs and supporting measures	100 %	40 %
025	Energy efficiency renovation of existing housing stock, demonstration projects and supporting measures	100 %	40 %
026	Energy efficiency renovation of public infrastructure, demonstration projects and supporting measures	100 %	40 %
027	Support to enterprises that provide services contributing to the low carbon economy and to resilience to climate change	100 %	40 %
028	Renewable energy: wind	100 %	40 %
029	Renewable energy: solar	100 %	40 %
030	Renewable energy: biomass	100 %	40 %
031	Renewable energy: marine	100 %	40 %
032	Other renewable energy (including geothermal energy)	100 %	40 %
033	Smart Energy Distribution Systems at medium and low voltage levels (including smart grids and ICT systems) and related storage	100 %	40 %
034	High efficiency co-generation, district heating and cooling	100 %	40 %
035	Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: floods (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems and infrastructures)	100 %	100 %
036	Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: fires (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems and infrastructures)	100 %	100 %
037	Adaptation to climate change measures and prevention and management of climate related risks: others, e.g. storms and drought (including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems and infrastructures)	100 %	100 %

INTERVENTION FIELD		Coefficient for the calculation of support to climate change objectives	Coefficient for the calculation of support to environmental objectives
038	Risk prevention and management of non-climate related natural risks (i.e. earthquakes) and risks linked to human activities (e.g. technological accidents), including awareness raising, civil protection and disaster management systems and infrastructures	0 %	100 %
039	Provision of water for human consumption (extraction, treatment, storage and distribution infrastructure, efficiency measures, drinking water supply)	0 %	100 %
040	Water management and water resource conservation (including river basin management, specific climate change adaptation measures, reuse, leakage reduction)	40 %	100 %
041	Waste water collection and treatment	0 %	100 %
042	Household waste management: prevention, minimisation, sorting, recycling measures	0 %	100 %
043	Household waste management: mechanical biological treatment, thermal treatment	0 %	100 %
044	Commercial, industrial or hazardous waste management	0 %	100 %
045	Promoting the use of recycled materials as raw materials	0 %	100 %
046	Rehabilitation of industrial sites and contaminated land	0 %	100 %
047	Support to environmentally-friendly production processes and resource efficiency in SMEs	40 %	40 %
048	Air quality and noise reduction measures	40 %	100 %
049	Protection, restoration and sustainable use of Natura 2000 sites	40 %	100 %
050	Nature and biodiversity protection, green infrastructure	40 %	100 %
POLICY OBJECTIVE 3: A more connected Europe by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity			
051	ICT: Very High-Capacity broadband network (backbone/backhaul network)	0 %	0 %
052	ICT: Very High-Capacity broadband network (access/local loop with a performance equivalent to an optical fibre installation up to the distribution point at the serving location for multi-dwelling premises)	0 %	0 %
053	ICT: Very High-Capacity broadband network (access/local loop with a performance equivalent to an optical fibre installation up to the distribution point at the serving location for homes and business premises)	0 %	0 %
054	ICT: Very High-Capacity broadband network (access/local loop with a performance equivalent to an optical fibre installation up to the base station for advanced wireless communication)	0 %	0 %
055	ICT: Other types of ICT infrastructure (including large-scale computer resources/equipment, data centres, sensors and other wireless equipment)	0 %	0 %
056	Newly built motorways and roads - TEN-T core network	0 %	0 %

INTERVENTION FIELD		Coefficient for the calculation of support to climate change objectives	Coefficient for the calculation of support to environmental objectives
057	Newly built motorways and roads - TEN-T comprehensive network	0 %	0 %
058	Newly built secondary road links to TEN-T road network and nodes	0 %	0 %
059	Newly built other national, regional and local access roads	0 %	0 %
060	Reconstructed or improved motorways and roads - TEN-T core network	0 %	0 %
061	Reconstructed or improved motorways and roads - TEN-T comprehensive network	0 %	0 %
062	Other reconstructed or improved roads (motorway, national, regional or local)	0 %	0 %
063	Digitalisation of transport: road	40 %	0 %
064	Newly built railways - TEN-T core network	100 %	40 %
065	Newly built railways - TEN-T comprehensive network	100 %	40 %
066	Other newly built railways	100 %	40 %
067	Reconstructed or improved railways - TEN-T core network	0 %	40 %
068	Reconstructed or improved railways - TEN-T comprehensive network	0 %	40 %
069	Other reconstructed or improved railways	0 %	40 %
070	Digitalisation of transport: rail	40 %	0 %
071	European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS)	0 %	40 %
072	Mobile rail assets	40 %	40 %
073	Clean urban transport infrastructure	100 %	40 %
074	Clean urban transport rolling stock	100 %	40 %
075	Cycling infrastructure	100 %	100 %
076	Digitalisation of urban transport	40 %	0 %
077	Alternative fuels infrastructure	100 %	40 %
078	Multimodal transport (TEN-T)	40 %	40 %
079	Multimodal transport (not urban)	40 %	40 %
080	Seaports (TEN-T)	40 %	0 %
081	Other seaports	40 %	0 %
082	Inland waterways and ports (TEN-T)	40 %	0 %
083	Inland waterways and ports (regional and local)	40 %	0 %
084	Digitising transport: other transport modes	40 %	0 %

INTERVENTION FIELD		Coefficient for the calculation of support to climate change objectives	Coefficient for the calculation of support to environmental objectives
POLICY OBJECTIVE 4: A more social Europe by implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights			
085	Infrastructure for early childhood education and care	0 %	0 %
086	Infrastructure for primary and secondary education	0 %	0 %
087	Infrastructure for tertiary education	0 %	0 %
088	Infrastructure for vocational education and training and adult learning	0 %	0 %
089	Housing infrastructure for migrants, refugees and persons under or applying for international protection	0 %	0 %
090	Housing infrastructure (other than for migrants, refugees and persons under or applying for international protection)	0 %	0 %
091	Other social infrastructure contributing to social inclusion in the community	0 %	0 %
092	Health infrastructure	0 %	0 %
093	Health equipment	0 %	0 %
094	Health mobile assets	0 %	0 %
095	Digitalisation in health care	0 %	0 %
096	Temporary reception infrastructure for migrants, refugees and persons under or applying for international protection	0 %	0 %
097	Measures to improve access to employment	0 %	0 %
098	Measures to promote access to employment of long-term unemployed	0 %	0 %
099	Specific support for youth employment and socio-economic integration of young people	0 %	0 %
100	Support for self-employment and business start-up	0 %	0 %
101	Support for social economy and social enterprises	0 %	0 %
102	Measures to modernise and strengthen labour market institutions and services to assess and anticipate skills needs and to ensure timely and tailor-made assistance	0 %	0 %
103	Support for labour market matching and transitions	0 %	0 %
104	Support for labour mobility	0 %	0 %
105	Measures to promote women's labour market participation and reducing gender-based segregation in the labour market	0 %	0 %
106	Measures promoting work-life balance, including access to childcare and care for dependent persons	0 %	0 %

INTERVENTION FIELD		Coefficient for the calculation of support to climate change objectives	Coefficient for the calculation of support to environmental objectives
107	Measures for a healthy and well-adapted working environment addressing health risks, including promotion of physical activity	0 %	0 %
108	Support for the development of digital skills	0 %	0 %
109	Support for adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change	0 %	0 %
110	Measures encouraging active and healthy ageing	0 %	0 %
111	Support for early childhood education and care (excluding infrastructure)	0 %	0 %
112	Support for primary to secondary education (excluding infrastructure)	0 %	0 %
113	Support for tertiary education (excluding infrastructure)	0 %	0 %
114	Support for adult education (excluding infrastructure)	0 %	0 %
115	Measures to promote equal opportunities and active participation in society	0 %	0 %
116	Pathways to integration and re-entry into employment for disadvantaged people	0 %	0 %
117	Measures to improve access of marginalised groups such as the Roma to education, employment and to promote their social inclusion	0 %	0 %
118	Support to the civil society working with marginalised communities such as the Roma	0 %	0 %
119	Specific actions to increase participation of third-country nationals in employment	0 %	0 %
120	Measures for the social integration of third-country nationals	0 %	0 %
121	Measures to enhancing the equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services	0 %	0 %
122	Measures to enhancing the delivery of family and community-based care services	0 %	0 %
123	Measures to improve the accessibility, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems (excluding infrastructure)	0 %	0 %
124	Measures to improve access to long-term care (excluding infrastructure)	0 %	0 %
125	Measures to modernise social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection	0 %	0 %
126	Promoting social integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including the most deprived and children	0 %	0 %
127	Addressing material deprivation through food and/or material assistance to the most deprived, including accompanying measures	0 %	0 %

INTERVENTION FIELD		Coefficient for the calculation of support to climate change objectives	Coefficient for the calculation of support to environmental objectives
POLICY OBJECTIVE 5: A Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives¹³			
128	Protection, development and promotion of public tourism assets and related tourism services	0 %	0 %
129	Protection, development and promotion of cultural heritage and cultural services	0 %	0 %
130	Protection, development and promotion of natural heritage and eco-tourism	0 %	100 %
131	Physical regeneration and security of public spaces	0 %	0 %
OTHER CODES RELATED TO POLICY OBJECTIVES 1-5			
132	Improve the capacity of programme authorities and bodies linked to the implementation of the Funds	0 %	0 %
133	Enhancing cooperation with partners both within and outside the Member State	0 %	0 %
134	Cross-financing under the ERDF (support to ESF-type actions necessary for the implementation of the ERDF part of the operation and directly linked to it)	0 %	0 %
135	Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders to implement territorial cooperation projects and initiatives in a cross-border, transnational, maritime and inter-regional context	0 %	0 %
136	Outermost regions: compensation of any additional costs due to accessibility deficit and territorial fragmentation	0 %	0 %
137	Outermost regions: specific action to compensate additional costs due to size market factors	0 %	0 %
138	Outermost regions: support to compensate additional costs due to climate conditions and relief difficulties	40 %	40 %
139	Outermost regions: airports	0 %	0 %
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE			
140	Information and communication	0 %	0 %
141	Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	0 %	0 %
142	Evaluation and studies, data collection	0 %	0 %
143	Reinforcement of the capacity of Member State authorities, beneficiaries and relevant partners	0 %	0 %

¹³ For policy objective 5 all dimension codes under policy objectives 1 to 4 may be chosen in addition to those listed under policy objective 5.

