

## DG REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY (DG REGIO)

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Initiative	Keyword(s)
<p>Commissioner Cretu sent letters to ministers responsible for EU Funds to encourage them to use the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to map current their needs and challenges, and to submit programme modifications, if necessary. It called attention to the wide range of measures that ERDF can finance, such as first accommodation, mobile hospitals, water supply, investments in social, education, health, housing and childcare infrastructure. To date, two operational programmes were modified to integrate additional measures for migrant and refugee integration (OP Midi-Pyrénées et Garonne (FR) OP Brussels).</p> <p>The Commission has proposed a new investment priority under thematic objective 9 in the ERDF regulation, such as: "(e) supporting the reception and social and economic integration of migrants and refugees". The proposal includes also new indicators on housing and other infrastructure developments, where migrants may benefit. The proposed modification is under negotiation in the European Council.</p> <p>The <b>Urban Agenda for the EU</b> brings together local and national authorities and non-governmental organisations in order to further develop urban policy and mobilise the necessary resources. Since 2016 the Partnership on the inclusion of migrants and refugees has been preparing an Action Plan to respond to the challenges of migration and foster better policy, knowledge and funding. Priority topics that addressed in the partnership are: Housing, employment, reception, community building and education. Special attention is being given to the needs of vulnerable groups. The first draft of the Action Plan is expected to go out for public consultation on the Urban Agenda for the EU <a href="#">website</a> by July 2017.</p> <p>The OECD has been contracted to conduct a <b>study on the local impact of migration</b>. It will identify the socio-economic characteristics of migrants and good practices in cities of different size, taking into account relations of municipalities with other public as well as private stakeholders through appropriate multi-level governance mechanisms.</p> <p>In order to analyse the approaches and mechanism implemented by Member States with the support of the ERDF in the field of inclusive growth (employment, social inclusion, education) in the 2014-2020 period, a study has been launched. It will also include assessment of support for target groups, such as migrants, Roma, disabled. The</p>	<p>Integration</p>

<p>findings will feed into further reflections on the future of Cohesion Policy.</p> <p>The call for <b>Urban Innovative Actions (UIA)</b> is about to test new approaches to the challenges faced by urban authorities. The first call was launched in December 2015 (total budget EUR 80 M) and it has covered 4 priority areas. In the scope of integration of migrants and refugees, four cities are implementing projects: ANTWERP, Bologna, Utrecht, Vienna. The second call, launched in December 2016, again includes the integration of migrants and refugees as a priority area. The submitted projects are currently under review.</p> <p>To facilitate the use of EU funds in the area of integration, encourage synergies and avoid overlaps, a <b>toolkit on the contribution of EU Funds for the integration of third country nationals</b> is in the process of being developed in close collaboration with the relevant funding services, including DG HOME, DG EMPL and DG AGRI.</p>	
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Studies and related outputs			
1	Investment for jobs and growth: Promoting development and good governance in EU regions and cities. Sixth report on economic, social and territorial cohesion	2014	The report highlights the links of Cohesion Policy with the Europe 2020 strategy by including chapters on smart, inclusive and sustainable growth and shows how the Policy has evolved to strengthen its impact on EU objectives of growth and jobs and how good governance is essential for its effectiveness. In its Chapter 4 on Movement of people within and between Member States and disparities in employment, wages and health, was written based on contributions from JRC and in collaboration with REGIO. The chapter also shows change in population and population growth over the years and projections.