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COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

Accompanying the document

**REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE
COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE
COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

**My region, My Europe, Our future:
The seventh report on economic, social and territorial cohesion**

{COM(2017) 583 final}

Lexicon

- Cohesion policy: Covers all the programmes supported by the following Funds: the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF).¹ It is also known as regional policy.
- Structural Funds: The European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Abbreviations

- COH: Cohesion countries (EU-13 plus Greece and Portugal)
- EAFRD: European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
- EFF: European Fisheries Fund, formerly known as Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG)
- EFSI: European Fund for Strategic Investment
- ERDF: European Regional Development Fund
- ESF: European Social Fund
- ESIF: European Structural and Investment Funds. Covers all programmes supported ESF, ERDF, CF, EAFRD and EFF.
- EU: European Union, formerly known as European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Community (EC)
- NSI: National Statistical Institute
- OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- PPS: Purchasing Power Standards

For ease of reading, funds are consistently referred to by their current name even if some of these funds have changed name over time.

Member States and their abbreviation

BE	Belgium
BG	Bulgaria
CZ	Czech Republic
DK	Denmark
DE	Germany
EE	Estonia
IE	Ireland

¹ EAFRD and the Fisheries Fund have been considered part of Structural or Cohesion Policy during certain periods. But they will be treated separately in this report.

EL	Greece
ES	Spain
FR	France
HR	Croatia
IT	Italy
CY	Cyprus
LV	Latvia
LT	Lithuania
LU	Luxembourg
HU	Hungary
MT	Malta
NL	Netherlands
AT	Austria
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
RO	Romania
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovakia
FI	Finland
SE	Sweden
UK	United Kingdom

Geographical groupings

Member State groupings

By enlargement

For ease of reading, this report refers to the European Economic Community (EEC), the European Community (EC) as the European Union (EU).

- EU-6: The six initial member states: BE, DE, FR, IT, LU and NL
- EU-9: EU-6 plus DK, IE and UK
- EU-10: EU-9 plus EL
- EU-15: EU-10 plus ES, AT, PT, SE, FI
- EU-12: All Member States that joined in 2004 and 2007: BG, CZ, EE, CY, LV, LT, HU, MT, PL, RO, SI, SK
- EU-13: EU-12 plus HR
- EU-25: EU-15 plus CZ, EE, CY, LV, LT, HU, MT, PL, SI, SK
- EU-27: EU-25 plus RO and BG
- EU-28: EU-27 plus HR

Geographic groupings

- Eastern Member States: EE, LV, LT, PL, SK, CZ, SI, HU, RO, BG, HR
- Southern Member States: PT, ES, IT, EL, MT, CY
- Western Member States: EU-15
- Nordic Member States: SE, DK, FI
- Baltic States: EE, LV, LT
- Benelux: BE, NL, LU

By level of development

Less developed Member States: (BG, EL, EE, HR, LT, LV, HU, PL, RO) (GDP per head below 75% of EU average in 2015)

Moderately developed Member States: (CZ, CY, PT, SI, SK) (GDP per head between 75% and 90%)

Highly developed Member States: (BE, DK, DE, IE, ES, FR, IT, LU, MT, NL, AT, SE, FI, UK) (GDP per head above 90% of the EU average)

By status:

Candidate countries: Turkey, Montenegro, Serbia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)

Potential candidate countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo under UNSC Resolution 1244/99 and Iceland

Types of NUTS 2 regions

Cohesion policy in the period 2014-2020 uses three categories of regions based on the GDP per head for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 (see map)

Less-developed regions: GDP per head (PPS) below 75% of the EU-27 average

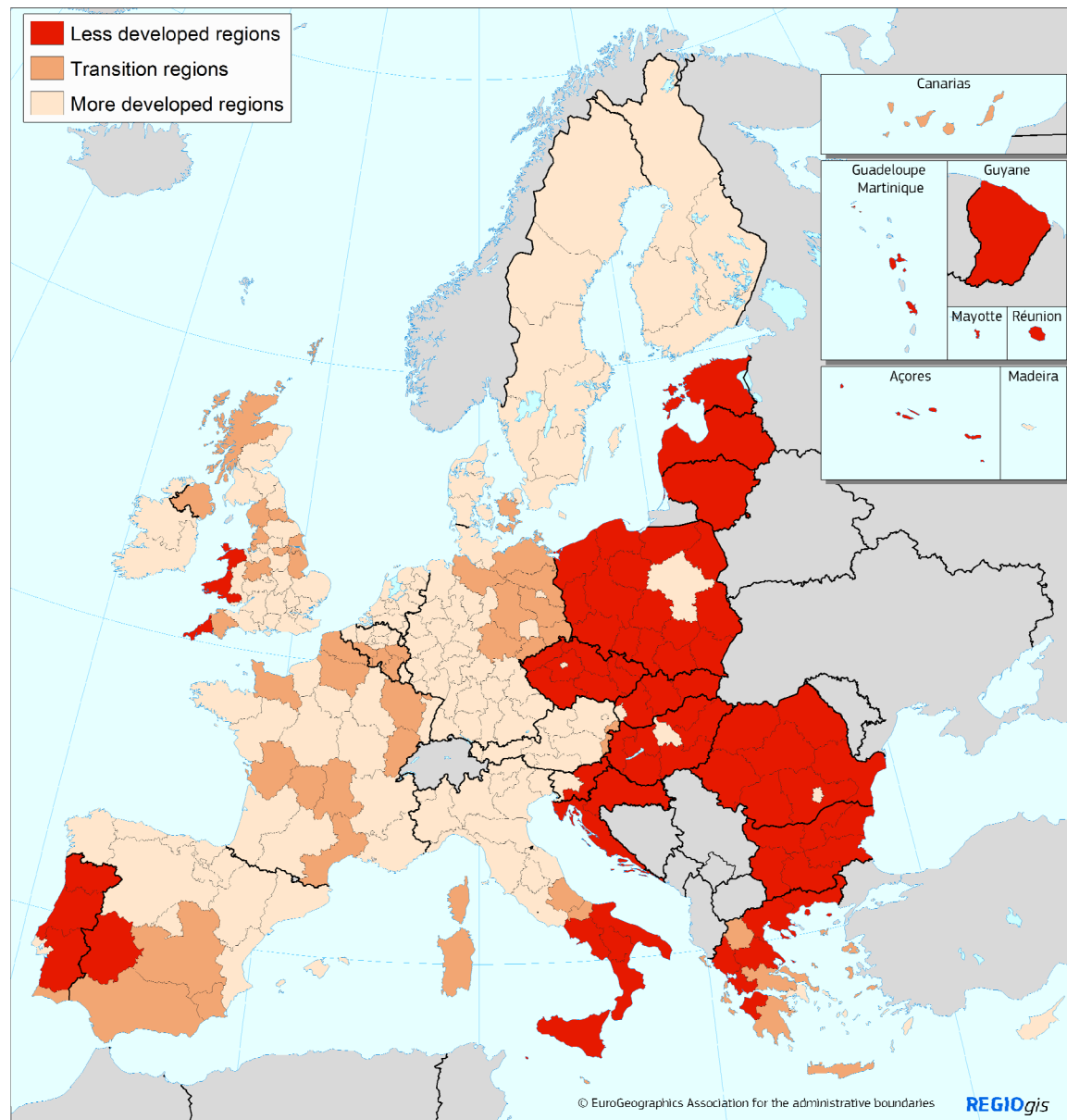
Transition regions GDP per head (PPS) between 75% to 90% of the EU-27 average

More-developed regions GDP per head (PPS) above 90% of the EU-27 average

Map 1 Category of regions for Cohesion Policy 2014-2020

Structural Funds (ERDF and ESF) eligibility 2014-2020

Category



Capital region: These regions consist of one or more NUTS 2 regions and approximates the functional urban area of the national capital. In most cases, it consists of only one NUTS 2 region. The exceptions are: Berlin, Brussels, London, Prague and Vienna. Combining these regions ensures that the distortion in economic indicators caused by commuting is substantially reduced. These regions in most cases different than the capital metropolitan region.

Types of NUTS 3 regions

Metropolitan regions

This classification was developed in cooperation with the OECD and consists of NUTS 3 approximation of all functional urban areas of more than 250 000 as defined by the EU-OECD. Two types of metropolitan regions are identified: capital and other. The capital metropolitan regions contains the national capital.

Predominantly urban, intermediate, predominantly rural regions

This classification is based on the OECD classification, but revised by the Commission. A detailed methodology is included in the Eurostat Regional Yearbook 2010.

Border regions

Border regions are NUTS 3 regions which are eligible for cross-border co-operation programmes under the European Regional Development Fund regulation.

Types of municipalities

Degree of urbanisation

- **Cities:** Local administrative units with more than 50 % of their population in an urban centre;
- **Towns and suburbs:** Local administrative units with more than 50 % of their population in urban clusters but less than 50 % live in an urban centre;
- **Rural area:** Local administrative units with more than 50 % of their population in rural grid cells

For more information see:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Degree_of_urbanisation_classification_-_2011_revision

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/work/2014_01_new_urban.pdf

Cities and commuting zones

- **Cities:** Same definition as above
- **Commuting zones:** Contiguous local administrative units with at least 15% of their working population commuting to a city.

For more information see:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/European_cities_%E2%80%93_the_EU-OECD_functional_urban_area_definition

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/focus/2012_01_city.pdf