Climate Change and the EU’s Budget 2021-2027

Operational Programmes

Brussels, 15 October 2019
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From PA to OP

PAs are broken down into more detailed OPs

- **OPs operationalize PAs**
  - Detailed plans with national, regional and sectoral focus
  - Define how money is spend during programming period
  - more specific objectives, concrete plans and financial allocations
  - descriptions of management and control systems
OP Nordrhein-Westfalen ERDF 2014–2020

Managing authority: Ministry for Economy NRW

- **Total OP budget**: € 2.4 bn (EU: € 1.2 bn) -> MFF is a lever

- **Main objectives**: “The Programme aims to [...] contribute to achieving the Europe 2020 targets for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. It should [...] reduce CO₂ emissions in the region and support integrative concepts for sustainable urban development [...]”

- **Expected impacts**: Reduce CO₂ emissions by 260,000 tons

- **Funding/Thematic priorities**: e.g.
  - reduction of CO₂ emissions (low-carbon economy)
  - Sustainable urban development/prevention; environment and resource efficiency
  - Social inclusion
... not doing ‘the good’
Implementation by Member State
OPs more generally

There are several hundred OPs that operationalise EU money

- Example: The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is delivered via 290+ operational programmes.

- **OPs often have a regional focus:**
  - Germany e.g. has 16 OPs – one for every federal state
  - Bulgaria has 6 – e.g. “Innovations and Competitiveness” and “Environment”
  - Many cross-border, transnational and interregional OPs, like the many Interreg programmes
MFF and NECPs linkages

... Why are they important?

- Parallel and linked processes that can reinforce climate action
  1. MFF financing of NECPs
  2. Strategic alignment of MFF and NECP
Demands & Recommendations (excerpt)

- **WS Berlin**: objectives and goals in PA & OP not very ambitious so far
- **Do ‘the good’**: Increase climate spending and efficient use of funds
- **‘Climate proof’ PAs and OPs**: Consistency and vertical coherence of programmes and spending plans: EU’s overarching strategies and climate goals have to be anchored in these documents
- **Strengthen Public Participation:**
  - officially intended in PA & PO processes by EU Governance Regulation and Code of Conduct on Partnership
  - CSOs have the opportunity and the **legal right to be heard**
Partnership Principles

Member States are required to:

- **Ensure involvement** of partners in all stages of the process, from planning to evaluation
- **Transparency** in the selection of partners
- **Sufficient information and time** for partners to get involved in the consultation process
- **Support capacity building of partners**
- **Create platforms** for exchange and learning

Thank you!

Supported by:

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

European Climate Initiative EUKI

based on a decision of the German Bundestag

The European Climate Initiative (EUKI) is a project financing instrument by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU). Its implementation is supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. It is the overarching goal of the EUKI to foster climate cooperation within the European Union (EU) in order to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. The opinions put forward during this event are the sole responsibility of CAN Europe and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety or of the project partners.