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An initial view from the CPMR on the post- 2020 Cohesion Policy

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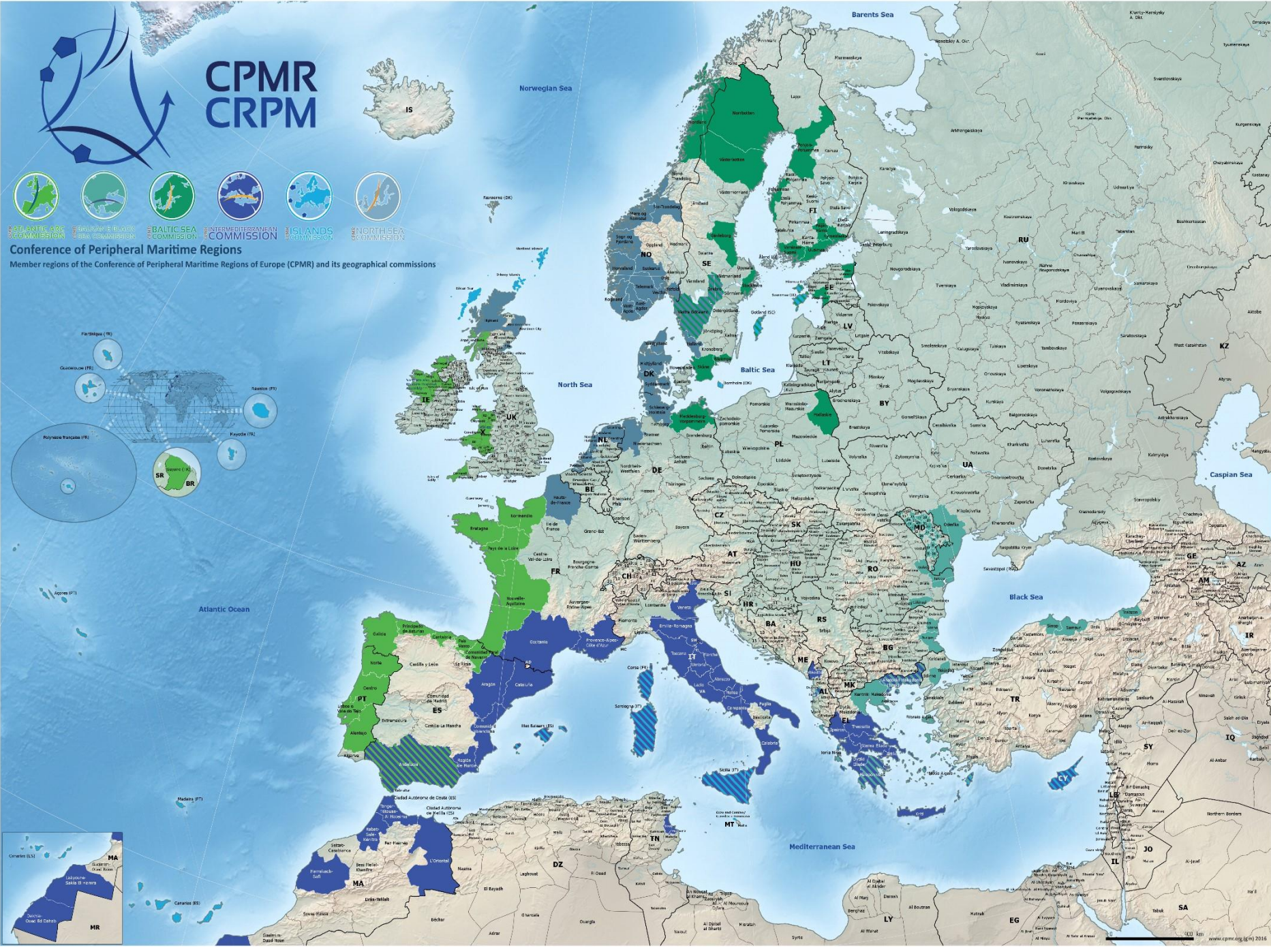


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Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions

Member regions of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR) and its geographical commissions



The future EU budget and Cohesion...



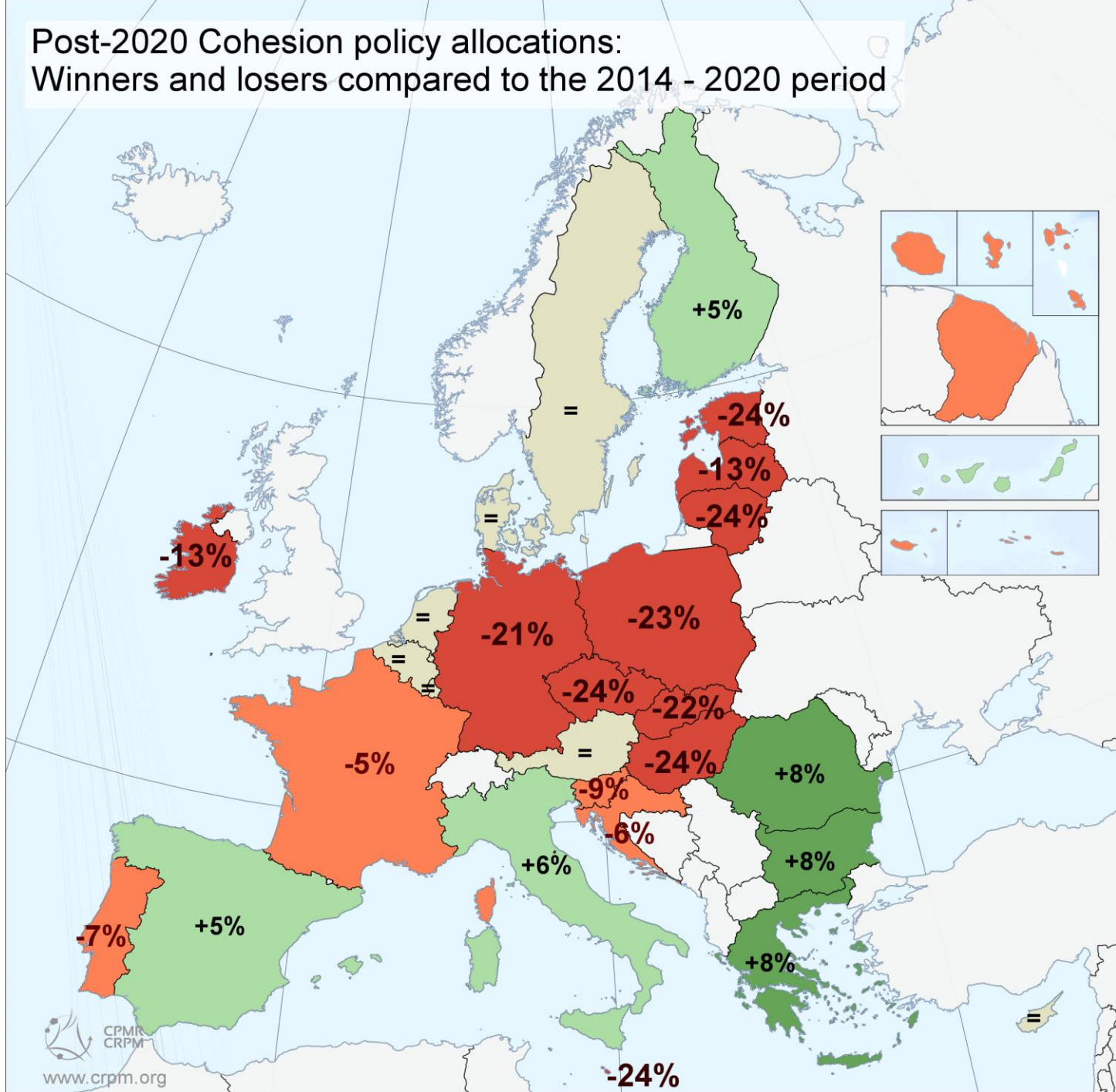
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In a nutshell:

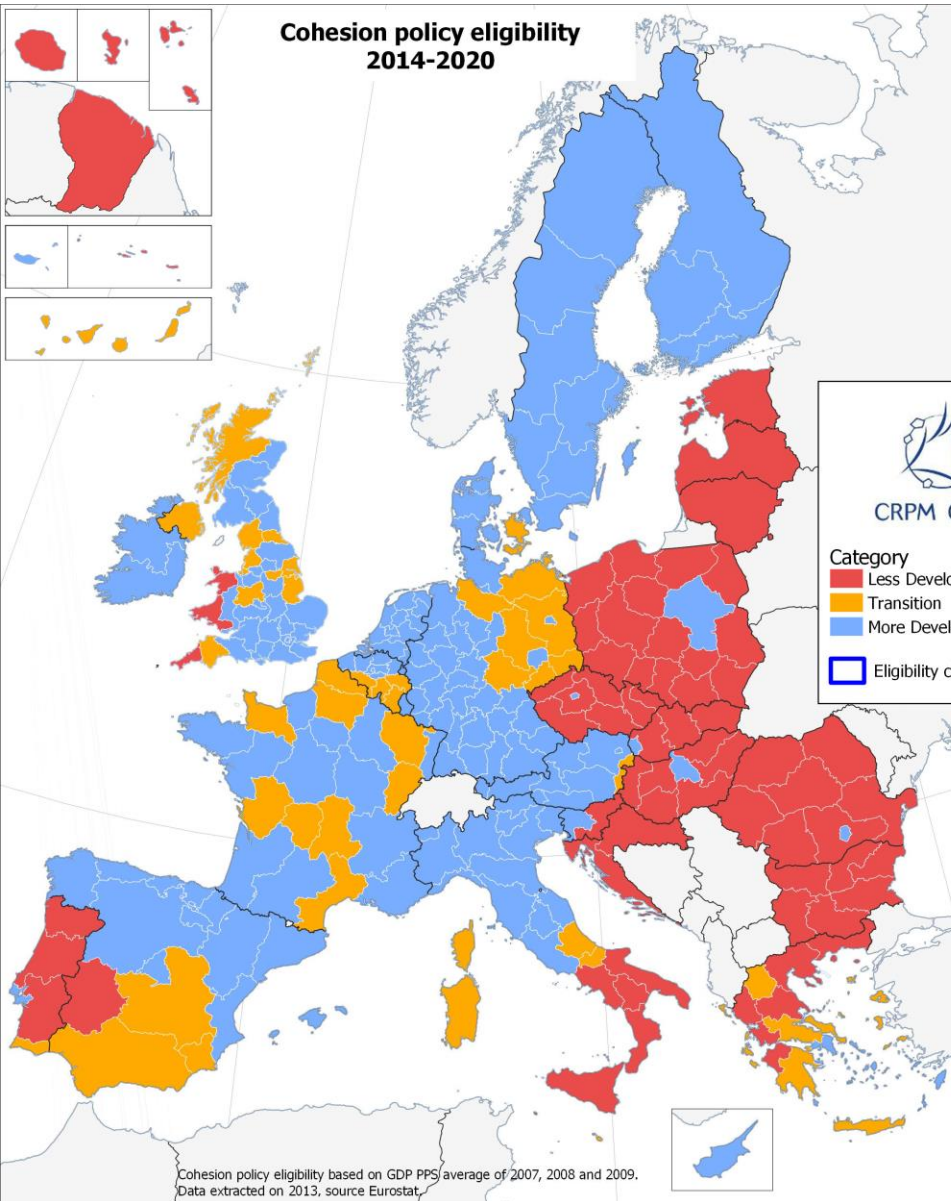
- **The post-2020 EU budget:**
 - Broadly compensates UK leaving the EU
 - Is more of an internal redistribution than a framework supporting a long-term vision
 - Reduces Cohesion Policy and CAP to make way for new priorities (defence, etc...) and increase funding for R&D

- **The post-2020 Cohesion Policy reform:**
 - Reflects internal divisions rather than being the product of genuine reflection
 - Is fairly 'evolutionary' overall... but revolutionary for INTERREG
 - Shifts money from East to the South

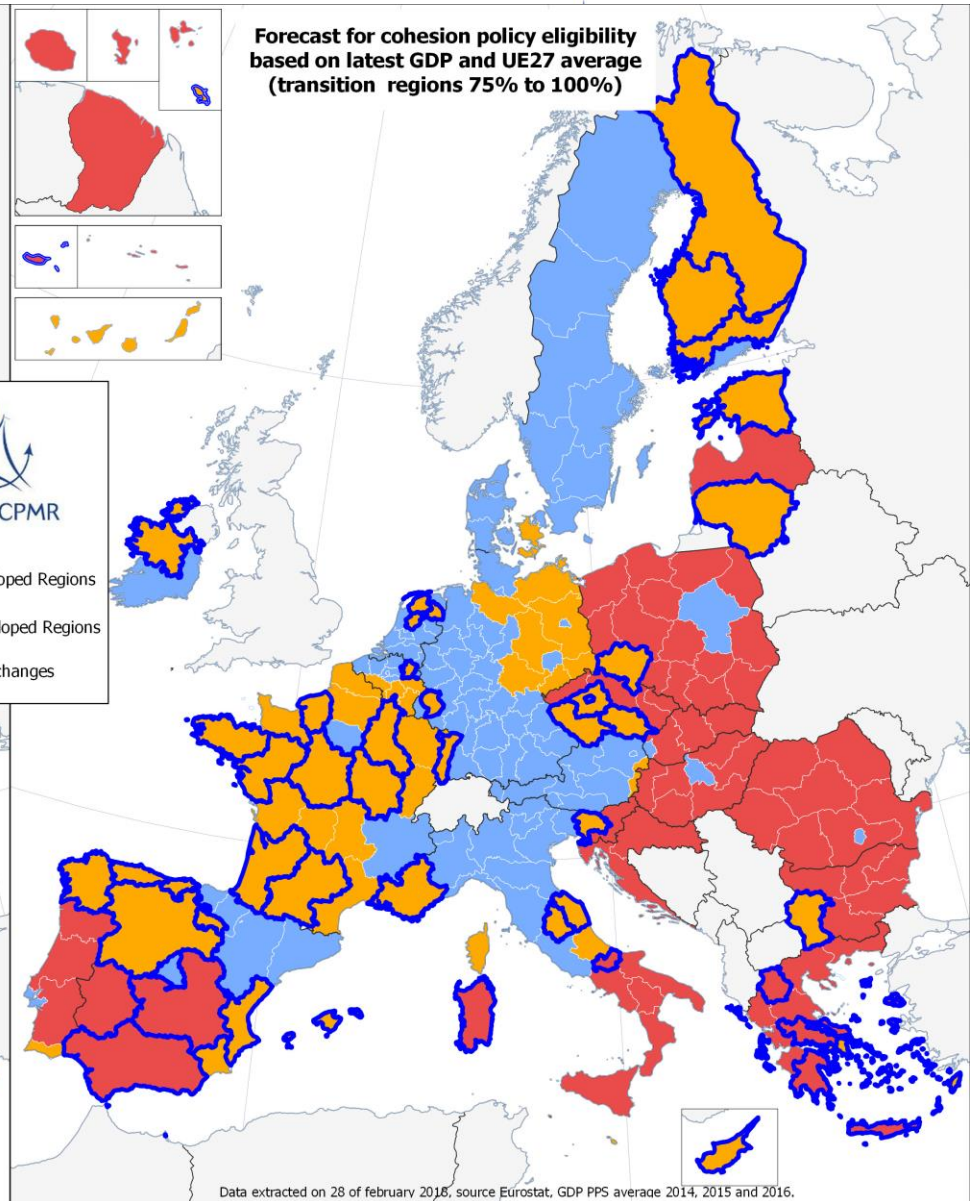
Post-2020 Cohesion policy allocations: Winners and losers compared to the 2014 - 2020 period



Cohesion policy eligibility 2014-2020



Forecast for cohesion policy eligibility based on latest GDP and UE27 average (transition regions 75% to 100%)



Positive aspects (1)



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- Cohesion policy remains the EU investment policy and **will cover all regions**
- Provisions on **partnership and multilevel governance** will remain (article 6 CPR)
 - CPMR had asked for stronger role of the Commission as ‘guardian’ of the partnership principle
- Efforts to **simplify the policy** (designation procedure...)

Positive aspects (2)



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- **Less ‘ex ante’ conditionalities** (*enabling conditions*)
- **UK can participate in INTERREG programmes**
- The new **interregional innovation investment component** (clarity needed on governance)
- **S3 and territorial instruments** (ITIs, CLLD) feature prominently

Negative aspects (1)



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- **The lack of focus** of Cohesion policy: is it a policy...
 - to reduce disparities
 - stimulate investment
 - realise the European Semester
 - used as a tool for Member States to realise other EU objectives...

or all of the above?

- **The breaking up of the policy:**
 - The European Social Fund a structural fund in name only
 - No genuine thinking on common framework for all funds
 - Rural development fund no longer covered by the CPR
- The **European Social Fund** being:
 - Heavily focused on **implementing Country Specific recommendations**
 - **Very far away from a 'territorial' fund**

Negative aspects (2)



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- Member States can **transfer up to 5%** of their respective fund allocation to:
 - InvestEU
 - Programmes under direct management
- Thematic concentration **at national level**
 - CPMR had asked for ‘smart regional concentration’: flexibility at territorial level to allow regions focusing EU priorities based on endogenous potential
- The **heavy focus on urban** vs other territories
 - CPMR had asked for Cohesion Policy to address needs of territories with permanent geographical handicaps

Negative aspects (3)



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- The proposal to **merge maritime cross-border cooperation programmes** with new transnational component
- The programmed **death of INTERREG Europe**
- The **double blow of a reduced budget...**
particularly for INTERREG (-12%) and the lower co-financing rates

Some questions



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- How can MAs of maritime cross-border cooperation programmes be reassured that the local dimension of maritime cooperation will be preserved after 2020?
- How will the interregional innovation investment component be delivered (direct/indirect management?)
- Why aren't 'third countries' eligible for the interregional innovation investments component?
- What should the ESF focus on as a matter of priority: CSRs, 11 specific priorities, or Policy Objective 4 (Social Europe)?



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Many thanks for your attention!

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