



**European Committee  
of the Regions**

**Commission for  
Economic Policy**

**ECON**

# **The involvement of the Local and Regional Authorities in the European Semester – Analysis of the 2018 National Reform Programmes**



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Catalogue number: QG-04-18-784-EN-N; ISBN: 978-92-895-0990-9; doi:10.2863/38447

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**It does not represent the official views of the European Committee of the Regions.**



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# Glossary of terms

CEEC	Central and Eastern European Countries
CoR	Committee of the Regions
CR	Country Report
CSR	Country-specific Recommendations
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EC	European Commission
EP	European Parliament
EPSR	European Pillar of Social Rights
ESIF	European Structural and Investment Funds
EU-13	The 13 “new” EU Member States; i.e. BG, CZ, CY, EE, HR, HU, LT, LV, MT, PL, RO, SI, SK
EU-14	EU-15 without EL (that does not submit a National Reform Programme)
EU-15	The 15 “old” EU Member States; i.e. AT, BE, DE, DK, EL, ES, FR, IE, IT, LU, NL, PT, SE, UK
EU-27	The EU Member States without EL (that does not submit a National Reform Programme)
LRA	Local and Regional Authorities
MLG	Multi-level Governance
MS	Member States
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NRP	National Reform Programme
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OtI	Obstacles to Investments
PA	Partnership Agreement
RTDI	Research, Technological Development and Innovation
ToR	Terms of Reference

The abbreviations for the EU Member States follow the two-letter country codes<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Glossary:Country\\_codes](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Glossary:Country_codes)





# Executive summary

The political backdrop of the present analysis is provided by the Committee of the Regions (CoR) proposal of a Code of conduct for the involvement of the local and regional authorities in the European Semester<sup>2</sup> and by the territorial analyses of the 2018 Country Reports based on Country-specific Recommendations (CSR). As a word of caution, it is important to note that the following analysis describes how the National Reform Programme (NRP) reports on the role and involvement of the Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs). It might be the case that the actual involvement of the LRAs in the preparation and implementation of NRP is not stated in the documents.

The analysis followed a comparative approach between the current situation and the preceding years (from 2011 onwards, with a special focus on 2015 onwards). A major point is evident: political administrative systems do not change quickly - these systems rather evolve than change all of a sudden. Given this 'inertia' of the systems, one can expect that major findings in many analytical dimensions do not change or vary much over time.

The three key steps in the methodological approach have been:

- Thorough analysis of the NRPs in a structured manner;
- Calibrating and harmonising the results, in particular the evaluation (i.e. the scoring) on the quality of information;
- Summarising and illustrating the key findings.

The review in 2018 has focused on **five dimensions**:

- An assessment of the extent in which the NRP shows regional disparities, differentiated impacts, and specific policies across regional and local territories.
- The involvement of LRAs in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the NRP in all the policy fields, including the European Pillar of Social Rights.
- Obstacles to Investments – an assessment on how and in which extent the NRP includes the support in investment in order to safeguard quality of life for citizens and to create jobs.
- References to institutional capacities and dedicated actions for capacity building.

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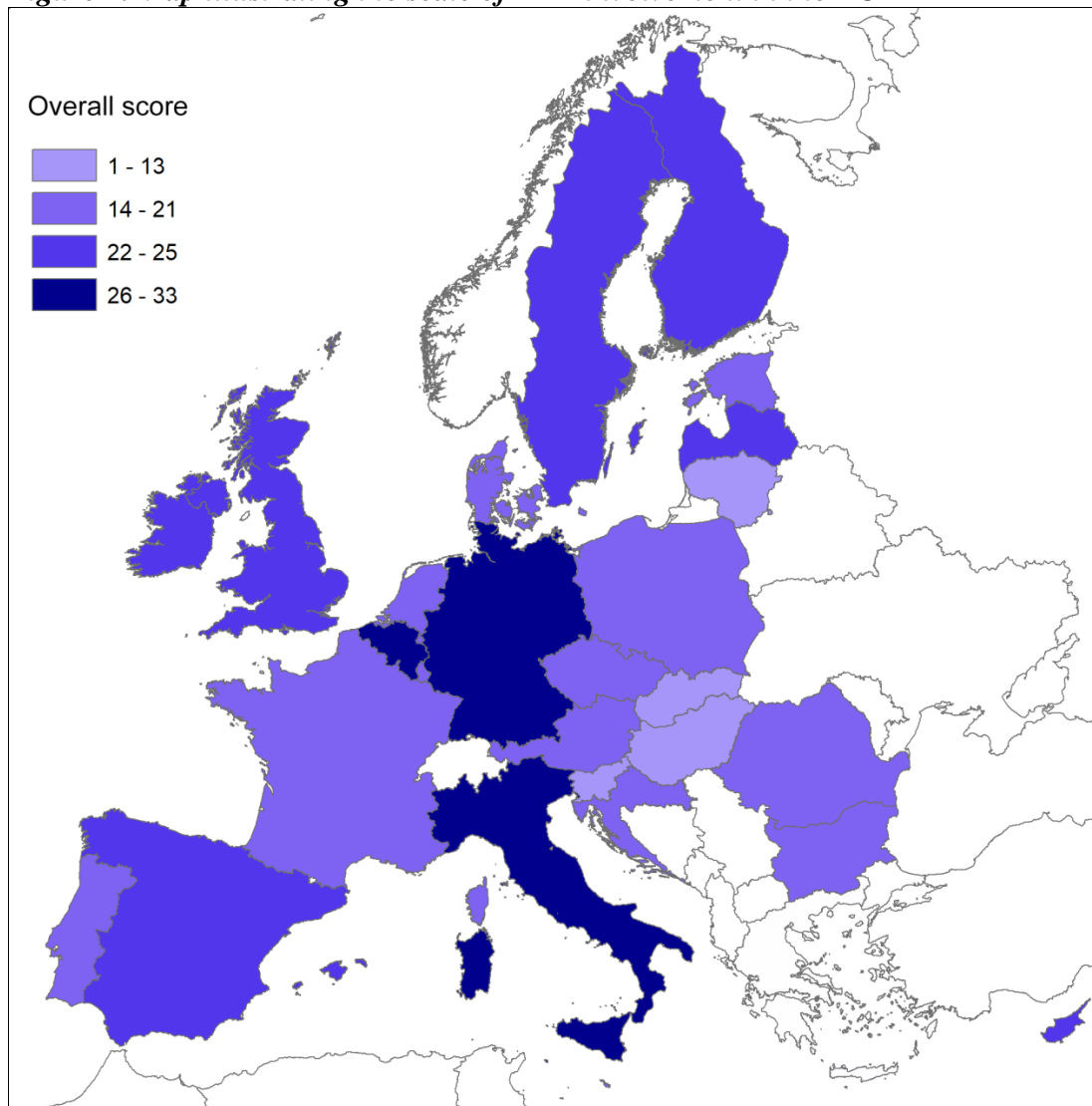
<sup>2</sup> Adopted by the CoR Plenary on 11 May 2017

- Partnership and Multi-Level Governance – an assessment of whether these principles affect the design and implementation of the NRPs and EU 2020.

on these dimensions, an evaluation grid has been drafted with scorings on the quality of information on LRAs in the NRP<sup>3</sup>. It must be added that in the assessment process undertaken by different country experts it cannot be excluded – despite the common methodology and several rounds of validation – that some interpretations were slightly different from others.

The following map shows the total score per NRP according to the evaluation grid<sup>4</sup>.

*Figure 1. Map illustrating the scale of LRA involvement in the EU 27*



<sup>3</sup> 0 – non-existent, 1 – general or minor references, 2 – specific or cross-cutting references; for a total of 17 evaluation questions. The template can be found in the Annex.

<sup>4</sup> EL does not submit an NRP.

The highest aggregate scores can be found in Central and Northwest European EU-14 countries with a long tradition of regional self-governance, which is reflected in frequent references to LRA responsibilities, and in countries with ongoing public-sector reforms. Public sector reforms are explicitly mentioned in the NRPs of BE, BG, CY, DE, EE, ES, FI, FR, IT, PT, RO and SK. Two of the three genuine confederations within the EU, BE and DE, show the highest scores, together with IT. Among the Scandinavian countries FI, SE as well as UK are within the next group, countries with a long-standing tradition of regional autonomy<sup>5</sup>. ES and IT are among the group of countries where ongoing public-sector reforms are mentioned in the NRP. LV and IE, also showing relatively high scores, have undergone reforms of the LRA system some years ago, too.

The analysis of the five dimensions allows the following conclusions:

- Concerning the territorial dimension, a marked difference can be seen between Western European EU-14 and the Eastern European countries (mainly CEEC). If this fact reflects a higher awareness of the territorial dimension of challenges and policies in the “old” MS remains to be monitored in the future NRPs.
- Concerning the role of LRAs in preparation and evaluation of NRPs it seems to be most noticeable that only a small number of EU-13 countries (five), but the clear majority of EU-14 countries (12) include a reference to the role of LRAs in the preparation of the NRPs.
- Concerning obstacles to investment, a strong involvement of LRAs is found on the one hand side for Northwest European countries with traditionally strong involvement of LRAs, on the other hand side for post-communist CEEC and Mediterranean countries where a certain investment backlog could be supposed.
- The role of administrative capacities is mainly addressed in the NRPs of countries carrying out a public sector reform, especially BE, CY, IT, RO.
- The dimension partnership and MLG shows high scores for the three federations among the MS, i.e. AT, BE, DE as well as for other Northern European countries with a long-standing tradition in local self-

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<sup>5</sup> However, that the results have to be regarded with caution shows the example of the relatively low total score of AT, the third confederation within the EU with a strong constitutional role of the provinces. When it comes to the questions targeting actual specific policies implemented, AT scores 2 in 6 out of 7 cases.

government. The other fact reflected in high scorings is ongoing public-sector reform.

Almost 30 years after the political changes in most of the CEEC, the analysis of explicit references to LRA involvement in NRPs still shows a marked East-West (EU-13/EU-14) divide in Europe. It is very strongly reflected in the scorings of the territorial and MLG dimensions and still clearly visible, however less marked in the dimensions of LRA involvement in NRP/EU2020 and institutional capacity-building as well as in the overall scoring. Only the dimension on obstacles to investment draws a more balanced picture, probably reflecting infrastructure investment and skills development backlogs in ‘old’ as well as ‘new’ Member States.

The Territorial Analysis of the Country-specific Recommendations 2018<sup>6</sup> points out that 83% of all CSRs directly or indirectly involve LRAs. According to the present Analysis, all NRPs refer to an involvement of LRAs in CSR implementation, 67% showing specific or cross-cutting references. Specific policies targeting obstacles to investment and administrative capacity-building involving LRAs are mentioned in 52% and 56% of the NRPs, respectively; mirroring the results of the Territorial Analysis.

Regarding comparative analysis with previous NRP exercises, the overall scorings are slightly lower on the average than for the previous year<sup>7</sup>. The reason is mainly due to a new methodological approach; in order to accentuate differences between countries the criteria have been applied in the strictest possible manner this year. Mainly the questions targeting the mentioning of challenges and problems have significantly lower rankings than in the past years because scoring criteria have been applied more strictly there, not accepting just implicit mentioning of the challenges for the highest score. However, the questions analysing specific policy measures show scorings much closer to previous years. Since the lower average scoring with certain questions is therefore mainly an artefact of the method, the role of the LRAs in the NRPs can be considered as relatively stable over the years.

When it comes to the policy fields LRAs are involved with, the prevalent recurrent topic of the NRPs is social inclusion. The topic has a clear territorial dimension since it concerns primarily regions with high unemployment, often threatened by a “vicious circle” of shrinking or ageing population, rising social

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<sup>6</sup> <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/news/Pages/Territorial-Analysis-of-the-Country-specific-Recommendations-2018.aspx>, [https://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/Documents/publi-file/2018-Territorial-Analysis-of-CSRs/2018\\_CSRs\\_draft\\_final.pdf](https://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/Documents/publi-file/2018-Territorial-Analysis-of-CSRs/2018_CSRs_draft_final.pdf), [https://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/Documents/publi-file/2018-Territorial-Analysis-of-CSRs/Annex\\_1\\_CSRs\\_2018-17.pdf](https://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/Documents/publi-file/2018-Territorial-Analysis-of-CSRs/Annex_1_CSRs_2018-17.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> In 2018, the mean per country per question was 1.16 as opposed to 1.32 in 2017.

expenses, infrastructural deficits and diminishing economic base. Additional topics, where the involvement of LRAs is explicit, are employment initiatives, education programmes and improvements to the business environment.

The set of policy fields most often identified in the analysis not only reflects the typical areas of competence for LRS, it also shows that 10 years after the Economic Crisis its aftermaths are still affecting large parts of European society.

The European Pillar of Social Rights is explicitly mentioned in about a third of all NRPs; however, in just one case LRA involvement is explicitly stated. In nearly all NRPs activities relating to the EPSR are mentioned. Almost all MS involve LRAs in the implementation of policies in line with the EPSR without referring to it directly illustrating again the key role of LRAs in the implementation of social policies.

The large refugee influx strongly affecting LRAs since summer 2015 still leave their mark in the NRPs, however less pronounced than in the past years.

At a moment where nationalist impulses seem to prevail in many European (and not only European) countries while facing difficult challenges inherited from the past as well as new challenges, the analysis reminds us that these challenges can only be successfully tackled in a joint effort, and that Europe's LRAs have a key role in the endeavour.





# 1 Introduction

In the context of the European Semester the EU Member States (MS) had to deliver their National Reform Programmes (NRP) by mid-April 2018<sup>8</sup>. The programmes are based on the priorities defined by the European Commission (EC) in the Annual Growth Survey. The Commission says about the NRPs:

*All Member States have committed to the Europe 2020 strategy. However, each country has different economic circumstances and translates the overall EU objectives into national targets in its National Reform Programme – a document which presents the country's policies and measures to sustain growth and jobs and to reach the Europe 2020 targets. The National Reform Programme is presented in parallel with its Stability/Convergence Programme, which sets out the country's budgetary plans for the coming three or four years.*

The NRP is a document designed and elaborated by the administration at national level. It is primarily meant to give an aggregate picture on major reform processes. Therefore, the level of detail of NRPs on e.g. the territorial dimension of challenges is limited and will remain so. But still in most policy fields several or all tiers of government have to interact in a coordinated way in order to efficiently and effectively implement the respective measures. The impact of policies is always a local one in the end – for example: investment in high-grade infrastructure, which tends to strengthen cities as network nodes or hubs, or social inclusion policies, which might become decisive for the economic future of disfavoured urban areas. In most cases the effectiveness of policy measures is dependent on the effectiveness of coordination between the government levels. This fact should also be reflected in the NRP.

The NRP is intended to report on policy issues which in many cases represent long-term challenges: measures in structural policies (such as labour market, education policies or shortfalls in infrastructure networks as obstacle to investment) will not have immediate impact but rather come into effect in the mid-term. This is also reflected in the results of this analysis which is done on an annual basis. In many regards the results are quite constant over the years – reflecting the long-term character of structural changes; the dynamic in the focus of the NRPs is owed significantly to the responsiveness of MS to the CSRs.

NRPs should follow a multi-level governance (MLG) approach which means being designed and implemented by all tiers of government in partnership. It is

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<sup>8</sup> European Commission. Website Europe 2020.  
[https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/european-semester\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/european-semester_en)

evident that annual reporting as requested in the frame of the European Semester might tend to become administrative routine thus favouring a pragmatic approach. In order to counteract such tendencies, the role of third parties observing the process and monitoring the contents of NRPs is useful. The political background of this analysis is provided by the CoR proposal of a Code of conduct for the involvement of the local and regional authorities (LRAs) in the European Semester<sup>9</sup> and by the territorial analyses of the 2018 Country Reports (CR) and Country-specific Recommendations (CSR)<sup>10</sup>. The Code as well as the territorial analysis strongly advocate for a more thorough consideration of the role of LRAs in all policy processes, which are interlinked with the European Semester. This analysis seeks to contribute to raise awareness in this sense.

The following sections of the report include an analysis of the 27 NRPs published in 2018 and if necessary their annexed or secondary documents. The review has focused on **five key points**:

- An assessment of the extent in which the NRP shows regional disparities, differentiated impacts, and specific policies across regional and local territories.
- The involvement of LRAs in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the NRP in all the policy fields, with an additional focus on the European Pillar of Social Rights, newly introduced in November 2017; it is evident that in particular direct involvement in the preparation would represent a major lever to shape the contents of the document.
- Obstacles to Investments – an assessment on how and in which extent the NRP includes the support in investment in order to safeguard quality of life for citizens and to create jobs.
- References to institutional capacities and dedicated actions for capacity building.
- Partnership and Multi-Level Governance – an assessment of whether these principles affect the design and implementation of the NRPs and EU 2020.

The 2018 Report also highlights examples of Multi-Level Governance cooperation in attaining the Europe 2020 targets.

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<sup>9</sup> Adopted by the CoR Plenary on 11 May 2017.

<sup>10</sup> <http://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/Pages/welcome.aspx>

## 2 Methodology

The analysis follows as far as possible a comparative approach between the current situation and the years before (from 2011 onwards, with special focus on the years since 2015). Drafting the report consisted of four main tasks carried out by the Consultant:

- Inception Report with a working programme.
- An analysis of the 28 NRPs and the relevant annexes.
- A draft final report summarising the findings.
- A check of the draft final report and submission of the final report.

### **EC Guidance on the contents and format of the NRP**

The EC has developed a concise guidance for the NRPs where the major expectations concerning the NRPs are laid down:<sup>11</sup>

- The main focus is on the implementation of the country-specific recommendations (CSR).
- The implementation of Europe 2020 is the complementary focus in order to provide the EC with recent information on developments in those policy fields which are crucial to attain the goals of EU 2020.

The analysis of the territory-related challenges was aligned with the analysis of territory-related challenges in the European Semester and of territory-related Country-Specific Recommendations based on the Country Reports for 2018 commissioned by CoR.

Furthermore the task concerning Obstacles to Investment (OtI) will be covered by capitalising on the results of the CoR study “Obstacles to Investments and local and regional level” elaborated by the Consultant in 2016.<sup>12</sup>

According to the Guidance, a specific section was dedicated to institutional issues and the involvement of stakeholders – a specific reference to LRAs hereby explicitly requested.

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<sup>11</sup> European Commission, Guidance on the content and format of the National Reform Programmes, October 2013, Brussels, p. 5.

<sup>12</sup> Obstacles to investment at local and regional level. Metis GmbH, 2016.

## Procedure for the analysis of the 2018 NRP

It was also considered as useful to add a brief description of the administrative system of each MS. The existence of as well as the capacity of regions is a decisive element where MS reveal significant differences – in case regions exist their scope of action related to NRPs is much greater compared to the local level.

The following table outlines the Consultant’s understanding of the dimensions of the analysis and the key evaluation questions to be answered.

**Table 1. Dimensions of the analysis and key evaluation questions**

Dimension	Key evaluation questions	Comments
<b><i>Territorial Dimension of the NRP</i></b>		
Disparities, challenges and needs	Does the NRP reflect territorial disparities, challenges, needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?	The basis to anchor a territorial dimension
Impact	Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories or LRAs?	A second step is to include an impact assessment since the impact of sectorial approaches might differ between territories
Specific policies	Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs or territories?	The most obvious territorial dimension
<b><i>Involvement of LRAs in the NRP</i></b>		
Preparation	Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?	The more clear and explicit the reference is the better
Implementation	Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. concise references to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ specific policy fields</li> <li>▪ financing</li> <li>▪ other policy levers</li> </ul>	Ibidem
Evaluation of the NRP	Are the proceedings for the evaluation of the NRP/CSRs from previous years addressed in the document? Do LRAs have a role in it?	Learning cycles on policy effectiveness beyond the feedback of the EC (in CRs, CSRs) could be a useful tool
Europe 2020	Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?	Here country-specific recommendations could be taken into account

Dimension	Key evaluation questions	Comments
European Pillar of Social Rights	Is the European Pillar of Social Rights explicitly mentioned in NRP? Does the NRP hint at any concrete actions at MS level? Are sub-national governments involved in the implementation of the EPSR?	The EPSR has been introduced recently, in November 2017.
<b>Obstacles to Investments</b>		
Territorial perspective	Does the NRP offer a differentiated picture related to investment needs at local and regional level?	Obstacles to Investment differ strongly across types of regions
Role of LRAs	Have the LRAs competences, budgets and capacities to remove Obstacle to investments?	
Related policies	Are there explicit policies for removing Obstacle to investments?	This points at specific bundles of measures for certain territories in a MS
<b>Institutional capacity</b>		
Capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?	Administrative capacity is an obvious precondition for any consolidated policy at level of LRAs
Capacity of LRAs related to investment policies	Does the NRP highlight the issue of improving the administrative capacity of sub-national governments in the context of Obstacle to investment and their removal?	
Institutional capacity-building	Is there a reference to institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?	Active approaches to capacity-building can demonstrate a commitment to MLG
<b>Partnership and multilevel governance (MLG)</b>		
Coordination among the tiers of administration	Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level?	As a first stage of cooperation related to MLG
Cooperation models	Is there a reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?	Cooperation should be target-oriented – models testify the will to experiment
Wider Partnership (multi-actorship)	Is there a reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process?	

Source: Code of Conduct on the Involvement of LRAs in the European Semester<sup>13</sup>, own considerations.

<sup>13</sup> Code of conduct for the involvement of the local and regional authorities in the European Semester (adopted by the CoR Plenary on 11 May 2017).

The Country Fiches follow the structure in the Table 1 on dimensions and key evaluation questions. The used Model Questionnaire can be found in Annex 1. The elements identified in the NRPs were assessed according to a three-grade scoring, following the logic that the more concrete and concise the information the more reflected is the integration in the NRP and thus the awareness for the role of LRAs.

**Table 2. Proposal for scoring on the quality of information on LRAs in the NRP**

Score	Description	Comment
0	Non-existent (not included)	Reference to the dimensions cannot be found
1	Explicit but general reference to LRAs	Reference is very general
2	Specific reference to LRAs	Reference includes several of the major elements of the 3 W's (who? What? When?) Basically, this can be achieved in two ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ consistent and cross-cutting references to LRAs across a major part of policy fields</li> <li>▪ references to LRAs in the context of specific policy areas, projects or programmes</li> </ul>

*Source: own considerations.*

Metis GmbH cooperates with a network of country experts who have ample background knowledge of the political-administrative system in their home countries. In critical cases or if the more extensive version of a NRP was only presented in the national language the expertise of country experts was relied upon.

### **Availability of the National Reform Programmes**

As EL is under financial assistance, no NRP is available, so the basic set of documents are the 27 NRPs of the other MS as uploaded on the official website<sup>14</sup>.

<sup>14</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/2018-european-semester-national-reform-programmes-and-stability-convergence-programmes\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/2018-european-semester-national-reform-programmes-and-stability-convergence-programmes_en)

## **New elements as compared to the 2017 analysis**

There will not only be a map based on the total score of LRA involvement, but also five additional maps on the score of each dimension of the analysis. Secondly, a box will be inserted referencing all relevant examples of multi-level government cooperation in attaining the Europe 2020 goals. The analysis of a reference made to the European Pillar of Social Rights is another new element this year.





### 3 Summary report on findings

The following section includes a general assessment of all 2018 NRPs and a comparative analysis with NRPs from previous years.

The political backdrop of this analysis is provided by the Committee of the Regions (CoR) proposal of a Code of conduct for the involvement of the local and regional authorities in the European Semester<sup>15</sup> and by the territorial analyses of the 2018 Country Reports based on Country-specific Recommendations (CSR). It is important to note that the following analysis describes how the National Reform Programme (NRP) reports on the role and involvement of the Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs) – it cannot assess the actual involvement of the LRAs in its preparation and implementation.

The NRP as a policy document is the result of an inter-administrative coordination process and a subsequent political consultation. A major point is evident: political administrative systems do not change quickly – these systems rather evolve than change all of a sudden. This is reasonable since the public sector is in charge of tasks which for example require long-term stability in terms of delivery and maintenance (e.g. education, water supply), tasks which serve social purposes or tasks where competition makes limited sense (e.g. in case of most infrastructure networks). The major part of state budgets is dedicated to long-term liabilities; the room for manoeuvre, i.e. unprecedented and new tasks is clearly limited. Given this ‘inertia’ of the systems, one can expect that major findings in many analytical dimensions do not change or vary over time.

For the report on the NRPs 2018 the methodology has been slightly changed as compared to the previous year. An additional question was added dealing with the European Pillar of Social Rights. The more detailed results according to the key evaluation questions can be found in Annex 2.

#### 3.1 Total scores of LRA involvement in the NRP

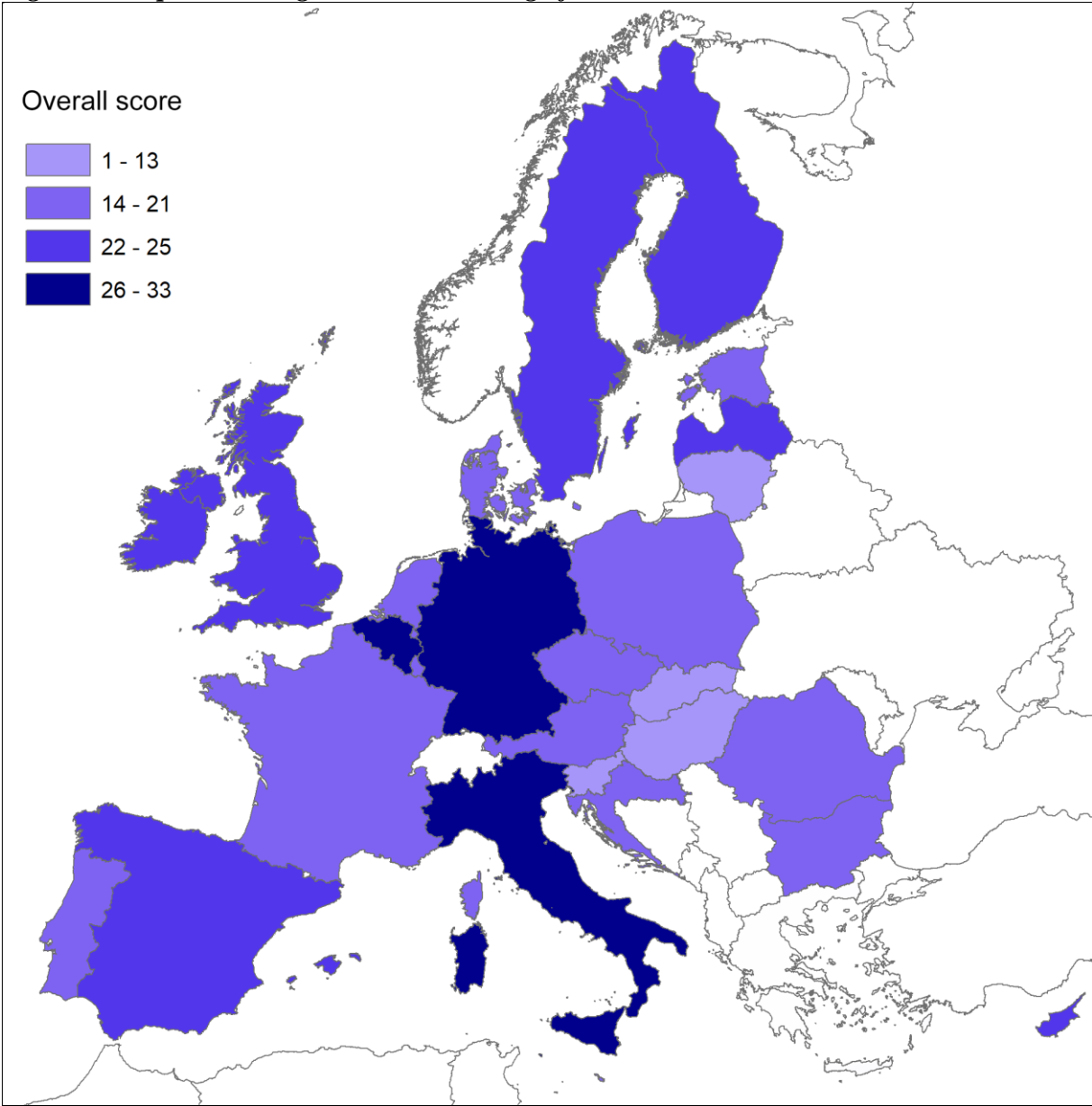
To give a first indication of the scale of LRA involvement in the NRPs, the following figure shows a map with a total of all scorings per NRP according to the evaluation grid described above in Chapter 2 on Methodology. The following analysis describes how the NRP reports on the role and involvement of the LRAs.

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<sup>15</sup> Adopted by the CoR Plenary on 11 May 2017.

The following map shows the total score per NRP according to the evaluation grid<sup>16</sup>.

**Figure 2. Map illustrating the overall scoring of LRA involvement in the EU27<sup>17</sup>**



Two of the three genuine confederations within the EU, BE and DE, show high scores, together with IT. Among the Scandinavian countries FI, SE as well as UK are within the next group, countries with a long-standing tradition of regional autonomy. CY, ES and IT are among the group of countries where ongoing public-sector reforms are mentioned in the NRP. LV and IE, also showing relatively high scores, have undergone reforms of the LRA system some years ago, too.

<sup>16</sup> Please note that EL does not submit an NRP.

<sup>17</sup> EL does not submit an NRP.

However, that the results have to be regarded with caution shows the example of the relatively low total score of AT, the third confederation within the EU with a strong constitutional role of the provinces. Interestingly, when it comes to the questions targeting actual specific policies<sup>18</sup>, AT scores 2 in 6 out of 7 cases.

Public sector reforms or reforms of LRA financing are explicitly mentioned within different contexts in the NRPs of BE, BG, CY, DE, EE, ES, FI, FR, IT, PT, RO, SK (12 or 44 %). The average (mean) total scoring of these 12 countries is higher than the mean of the other 15 countries (22.3 as compared to 17.5 points). This supports the thesis that ongoing public-sector reforms are mirrored in more consistent mentioning of LRAs in the NRP.

As last year, on the average the overall scorings are slightly lower than for the previous year<sup>19</sup>. The reason is mainly due to a new methodological approach; in order to accentuate differences between countries the criteria have been applied in the strictest possible manner this year<sup>20</sup>.

Old MS tend to involve LRAs in the NRPs stronger than new MS (EU-14: 7 countries above 22 total score; EU-13: two countries - CY and LV - above 22). The exceptions CY and LV can be traced back to detailed descriptions in the NRP reports.

The large refugee flows of summer 2015 and their impact on LRAs leave a mark in the NRPs of some of the affected countries with BE, DE, DK, LU explicitly mentioning specific policies targeting the integration of refugees, however less prevalent than last year (2017: BE, DE, EE, FI, LU, SE).

For more insights in the detailed assessment per country, the country fiches that can be found in a separate file shall be consulted.

Finally, it must be pointed out that in the assessment process undertaken by different country experts it cannot be excluded – despite the common methodology and several rounds of validation – that some interpretations were slightly different from others.

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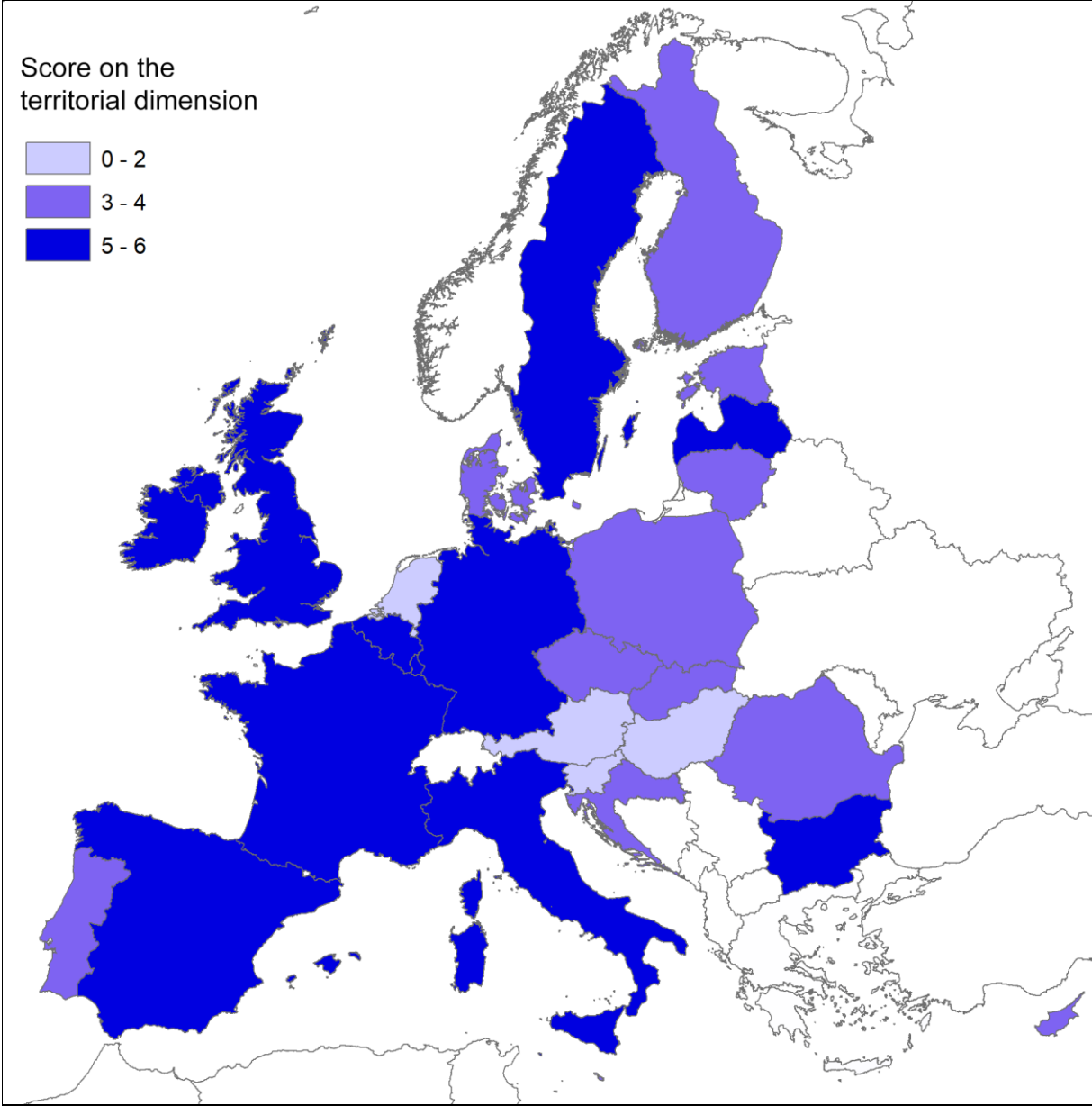
<sup>18</sup> A3, B2, B4, C3, D3, E1, E2.

<sup>19</sup> For the NRPs 2018 the mean per country per question has amounted to 1.16 as compared to 2017 when it stood at 1.32 (2016: 1.34, 2015: 1.42).

<sup>20</sup> More details are provided in the Chapter on Comparative Analysis.

### 3.2 Territorial dimension

Figure 3. Map illustrating the scoring for the dimension on territorial dimension<sup>21</sup>



The illustration reveals a marked East-West difference between EU-14 and EU-13 MS which may be related to the longer tradition of self-government accompanied by a potentially higher awareness of territory-specific challenges in the EU-14. It is interesting to note that the two most notable exceptions to the overall picture, LV and RO, are currently undergoing public-sector reforms.

Generally speaking, it is important to note that the NRP is not meant as a policy document which is specifically focussing on a territorial dimension. Policy

<sup>21</sup> EL does not submit an NRP.

actors at national level do have the key role in drafting the document and the perspective is mostly on overarching policy approaches and corresponding challenges.

<i>Does the NRP reflect territorial disparities, challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?</i>		
No reference	General or minor reference	Specific or cross-cutting reference
19%	52%	30%

The table below shows the policy fields most often mentioned in the specific references pertaining to the question.

**Table 3. Territorial disparities - policy fields**

Territorial disparities - Policy Fields	Countries (total 8)
1. Social inclusion (4/6)	BG, DE, ES, SE, (BE, UK)
2. Education (3/5)	BG, IT, SE, (BE, UK)
2. Employment (3/5)	BG, DE, SE, (BE, UK)
4. Digital infrastructure (2/4)	DE, FR, (BE, UK)
4. Health care (2/4)	BG, FR, (BE, UK)

*Note: BE, UK show cross-cutting references over all policy fields.*

Examples of territorial social inclusion challenges include people with special needs (BG), Roma (BG), elderly people (BG), refugees and new immigrants (DE, SE), housing (DE, SE) and the minimum income (ES).

In 2017, main policy fields had been ranked as follows:

- Digital infrastructure/e-commerce/ICT skills (7)
- Education (6)
- Natural resources/natural disasters (5)
- Employment (4)
- Transport (4)
- Social inclusion/poverty risk (4)

Relative stability can be seen for the prevalence of social inclusion, education, employment and digital infrastructure challenges.

<i>Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?</i>		
No reference	General or minor reference	Specific or cross-cutting reference
30%	48%	22%

Explicit analysis of specific impacts of activities on LRAs is relatively rare. Five of the six countries giving specific references are EU-14 countries, including BE

and DE. Since NRPs are focused on the national level, an outline of the impacts are rather provided for the entire Member State than for specific sub-territories.

<i>Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?</i>		
No reference	General or minor reference	Specific or cross-cutting reference
4%	7%	90%

The table below shows the policy fields most often mentioned in the specific references pertaining to the question.

**Table 4. Specific territorial policies - policy fields**

Specific territorial policies - Policy Fields	Countries (total 24)
1. Employment (16/17)	BG, CZ, DE, EE, FI, HR, HU, IT, LT, LV, MT, PL, PT, RO, SK, UK, (BE)
2. Social inclusion (15/16)	CZ, DK, ES, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LU, LV, PL, PT, RO, SE, SK, (BE)
3. Spatial planning/regional development (11/12)	CY, CZ, EE, FI, FR, HU, IE, LV, PT, RO, SE (BE)
4. Climate measures/energy efficiency/environment (10/11)	EE, HU, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, PL, PT, RO, (BE)
5. Education (9/10)	DK, EE, ES, HU, IT, LT, LV, PL, RO, (BE)
5. Health care (9/10)	BG, CY, EE, HR, HU, LV, PL, PT, RO, (BE)

*Note: BE has cross-cutting references across all policy fields.*

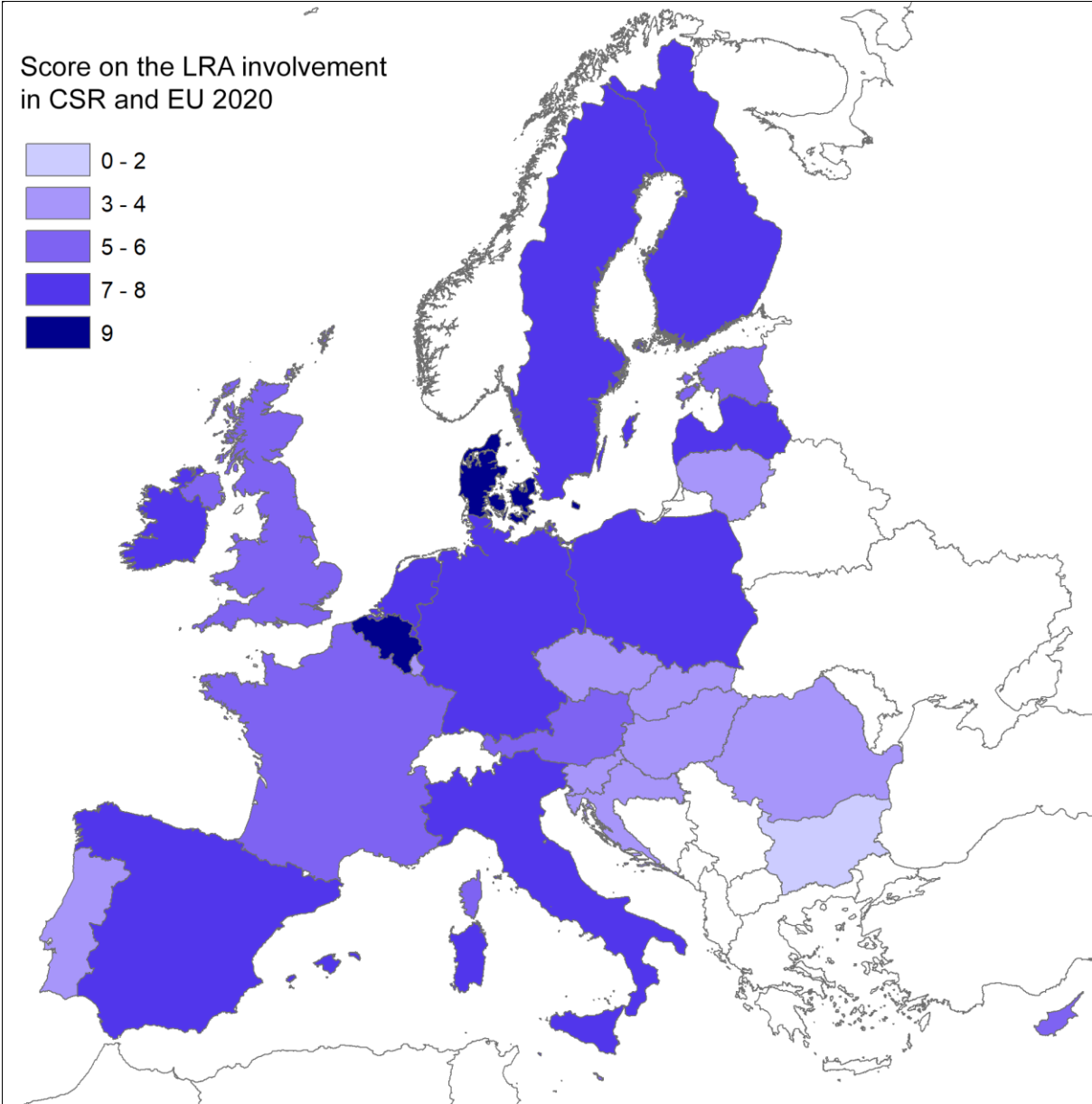
Interesting examples for territorial employment measures target immigrants (CZ), people with special needs (EE) or support to regional mobility and commuting (FI).

The ranking of last year shows the stability of the topics employment, regional development and social inclusion. In 2017, the list had shown:

- Employment (10)
- Spatial planning/regional development (9)
- Transport (9)
- Social inclusion (8)
- Energy (7)

### 3.3 Involvement of LRAs in the NRP

Figure 4. Map illustrating the scoring for the dimension on LRA involvement in CSR and EU 2020<sup>22</sup>



The Northern and Central European countries as well as the Mediterranean show a strong involvement of LRAs in the implementation of CSR and EU2020, with generally lower scores for the Southeast European MS.

<sup>22</sup> EL does not submit an NRP.



<i>Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?</i>		
No reference	General or minor reference	Specific or cross-cutting reference
37%	11%	52%

**Table 5. Involvement in the preparation of the NRP - countries**

No of NRPs	Assessment
10	No reference: BG, CZ, EE, HR, HU, LU, PT, RO, SI, SK
3	General or minor reference: AT, LT, UK
14	Specific references: BE, CY, DE, DK, ES FI, FR, IE, IT, LV, MT, NL, PL, SE

The number of NRPs showing strong involvement of LRAs in the preparation process remains remarkably stable over the years (2017: 15, 2016: 13). There is a strong prevalence of the EU-14 among the group with strong involvement (11 of EU-14) and a strong prevalence of EU-13 in the group with no reference (8 of EU-13), probably reflecting a different status of LRAs in the post-communist MS.

<i>Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. do the NRP/the CSR include concise references to specific policy fields / financing / other policy levers?</i>		
No reference	General or minor reference	Specific or cross-cutting reference
0%	33%	67%

The table below shows the policy fields most often mentioned in the specific references pertaining to the question.

**Table 6. LRA involvement in CSR implementation - policy fields**

Involvement in CSR - Policy Fields	Countries (total 18)
<b>1. Business support (10/11)</b>	BE, CY, DK, ES, HU, IT, LV, NL, PL, RO, (DE)
<b>1. Education (10/11)</b>	AT, BE, DK, EE, ES, IT, LV, NL, SE, UK, (DE)
<b>1. Social inclusion (10/11)</b>	BE, CZ, DK, EE, ES, FI, IT, NL, SE, UK, (DE)
4. Administration (7/8)	BE, CY, EE, HU, LV, RO, UK, (DE)
4. Employment (7/8)	BE, DK, EE, ES, IT, SE, UK, (DE)

*Note: DE shows cross-cutting references over all topics.*

It is interesting to note that the most frequently mentioned policy fields in 2017 had been:

- social inclusion (14)
- budgetary, fiscal and administrative issues (13)
- labour policy/employment (10)
- economic policy, industrial policy, business development (8)
- education (7)

The top five policy fields had already remained the same since 2016 showing remarkable stability of topics. This is not surprising since all of the fields represent long-term structural challenges where rapid changes cannot be expected.

<i>Are the proceedings for the evaluation of the NRP/CSRs for previous years addressed in the document? Do LRAs have role in it?</i>		
No reference	General or minor reference	Specific or cross-cutting reference
63%	30%	7%

Evaluation of previous NRPs including references to LRAs are rare, in this case restricted to DK and FR, two EU-14 countries with administrative reforms ongoing.

<i>Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?</i>		
No reference	General or minor reference	Specific or cross-cutting reference
19%	26%	56%

The table below shows the policy fields most often mentioned in the specific references pertaining to the question.

**Table 7. LRA involvement in attaining EU 2020 targets - policy fields**

Involvement in EU2020 - Policy Fields	Countries (total 15)
<b>1. Social inclusion (11/12)</b>	BE, DE, DK, EE, ES, IE, IT, LU, LV, NL, PL, (SE)
2. Energy efficiency/climate measures/environment (10/11)	AT, BE, DE, EE, FI, IT, LU, LV, MT, PL, (SE)
3. Education (8/9)	BE, DE, DK, EE, ES, LV, MT, NL, (SE)
4. Employment (7/8)	BE, DE, EE, ES, IE, NL, PL, (SE)
4. RTDI (7/8)	BE, DE, DK, ES, FI, IT, NL, (SE)

*Note: SE shows cross-cutting references over all policy fields.*

Interesting examples in the field of social inclusion are housing projects in IE, NL; Roma project in LV, initiative for people with special needs in EE and family/child focus in LV, NL.

The ranking of policy areas most frequently mentioned in 2017 had been almost identical:

- social inclusion (13)
- energy efficiency, climate and environmental measures (13)
- labour/employment (11)
- education (9)
- RTDI (8)

The top five topics had already remained constant since 2016, mirroring the main policy fields the EU 2020 targets are aiming at.

<i>Is the European Pillar of Social Rights explicitly mentioned in NRP? Does the NRP hint at any concrete actions at MS level? Are sub-national governments involved in the implementation of the EPSR?4%</i>		
No reference	General or minor reference	Specific or cross-cutting reference
4%	93%	4%

The Figure below analysis the references to the EPSR.

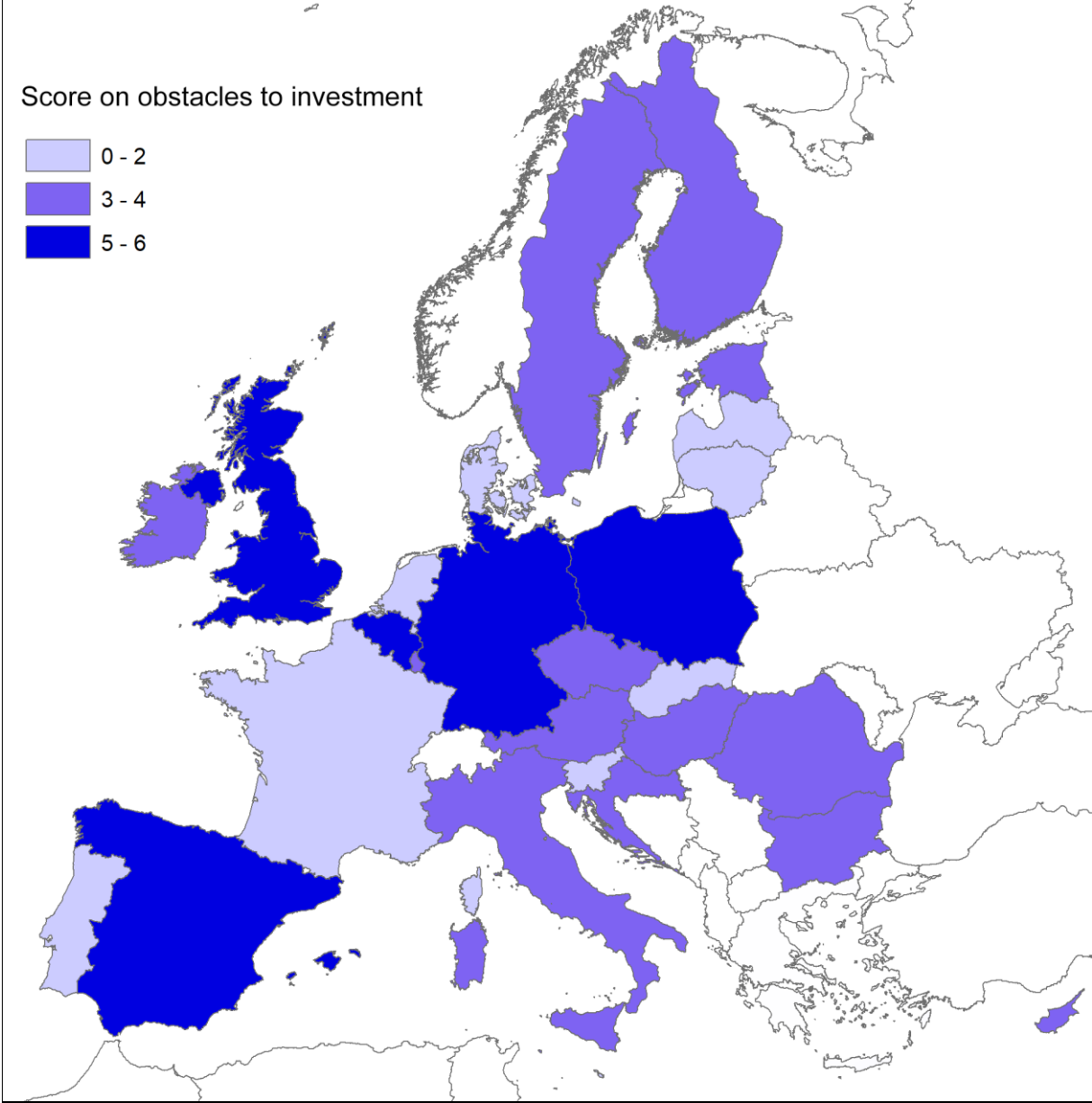
**Table 8. European Pillar of Social Rights in the 2018 NRPs**

Activities in line with European Pillar of Social Rights mentioned			No (1)
Yes (26)			
EPSR itself explicitly mentioned			BG
Yes (10)		No (16)	
Reference to LRAs			
Yes (1)	No (9)		
BE	DE, ES, FR, IE, LU, PL, RO, SE, SI	AT, CY, CZ, DK, EE, FI, HR, HU, IT, LT, LV, MT, NL, PT, SK, UK	

Since the European Pillar of Social Rights has only been adopted in November 2017, it can be expected that explicit references as well as respective reference to LRAs will start in the next year. The strong role of LRAs in social inclusion policies is mirrored in the fact that although only one NRP explicitly mentions the role of LRAs in EPSR implementation, almost all NRPs cite policies in line with its objectives and involving LRAs.

### 3.4 Obstacles to Investment

Figure 5. Map illustrating the scoring for the dimension on obstacles to investment<sup>23</sup>



The picture shows strong involvement of LRAs on the one hand side in Northwest European countries with traditionally strong involvement of LRAs (BE, DE, UK in the group with the highest scores; AT, FI, SE in the second group), on the other hand side post-communist CEEC and Mediterranean countries where a certain investment backlog could be supposed (ES in the group with the highest scores; BG, CZ, EE, HR, HU, PL, RO resp. IT in the second group).

<sup>23</sup> EL does not submit an NRP.

<i>Does the NRP offer a differentiated picture related to investment needs at local and regional level?</i>		
No reference	General or minor reference	Specific or cross-cutting reference
41%	48%	11%

It has to be added that for this year's analysis, scoring criteria have been changed. The score "2" for specific or cross-cutting references was only given in case of explicit mentioning of challenges and not in case of implicit acknowledgement when policies targeting the challenges are described. The three countries with specific references are BE, DE, UK with their long tradition of regional self-government.

<i>Does the NRP review the governance issue, i.e. the framework for investment at LRA level?</i>		
No reference	General or minor reference	Specific or cross-cutting reference
30%	48%	22%

The same as above applies to this question. Five of the six countries with specific references are EU-14 countries, among them BE, DE, FI and SE, countries with strong traditions of local self-governance, together with PL and ES (the latter undergoing public sector reform).

<i>Are there any (next to a system of fiscal equalisation) policy levers which support investment activities of LRAs?</i>		
No reference	General or minor reference	Specific or cross-cutting reference
15%	33%	52%

The table below shows the policy fields most often mentioned in the specific references pertaining to the question.

**Table 9. Specific investment policies - policy fields**

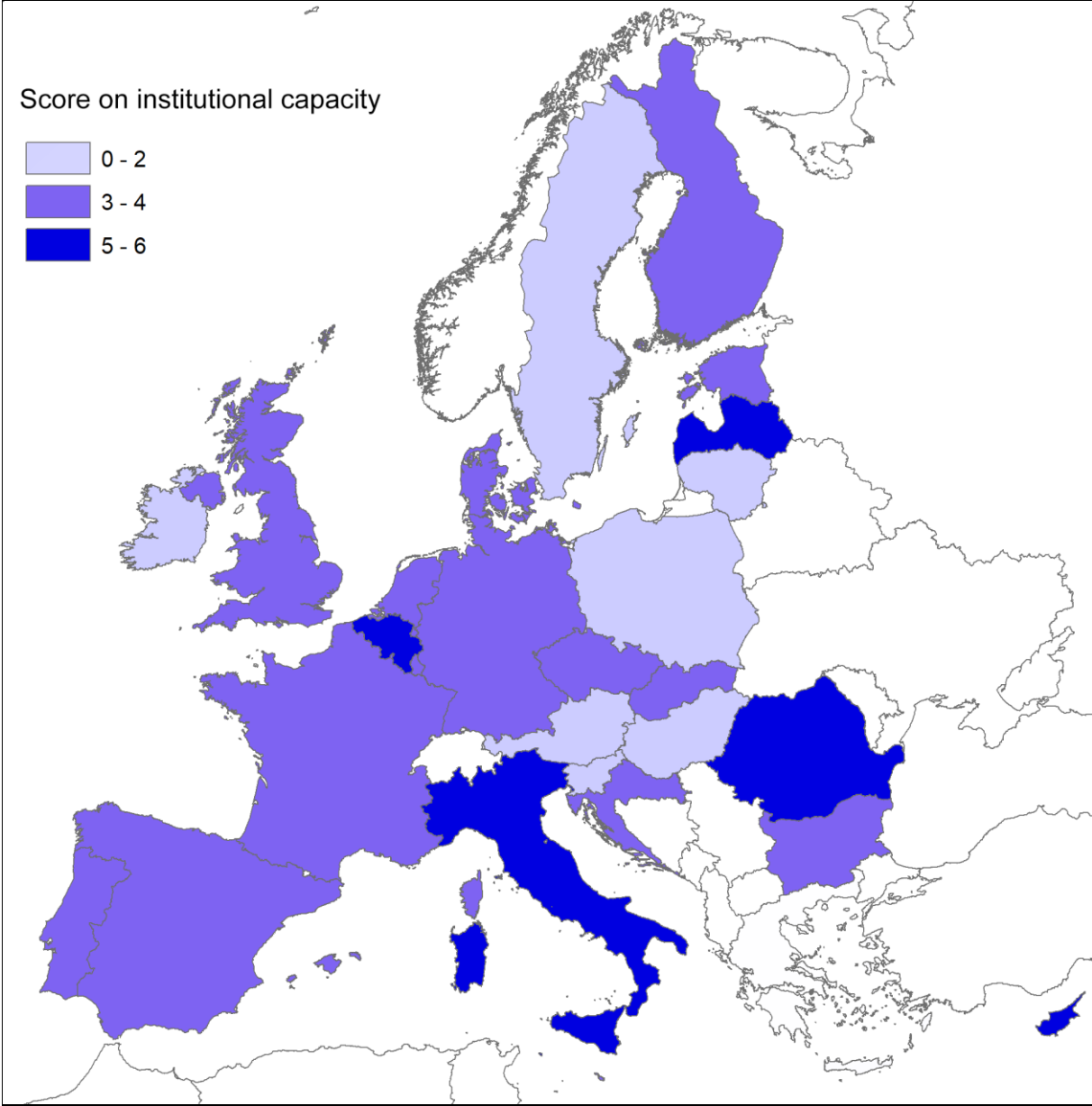
Specific investment policies - Policy Fields	Countries (total 14)
<b>1. SME/business support (10)</b>	BE, BG, CY, DE, FR, HU, IE, IT, LU, PL
2. Administration (7)	BG, CY, DE, HU, IT, LU, PL
3. Social inclusion (6)	AT, CY, DE, ES, IE, UK
4. Fiscal policy (5)	AT, BG, CY, DE, IE
5. Energy efficiency/climate measures/environment (4)	AT, CZ, IT, LU

Not surprisingly, policy measures targeting obstacles to investment focus on business support in the wide sense, be it SME support (BE), taxation (BG, DE,

HU, PL), public procurement (DE), company establishment (HU), provisions for Brexit (IE) and an e-commerce platform (LU).

### 3.5 Institutional Capacity

Figure 6. Map illustrating the scoring for the dimension on institutional capacity<sup>24</sup>



The administrative capacity in general – but in particular the capacity at sub-national level – is a pre-requisite for efficient and effective approaches in all policy fields. Four of the five countries with the most consistent references to challenges and policies regarding institutional capacity of LRAs have ongoing

<sup>24</sup> EL does not submit an NRP.

public-sector reforms: BE, CY, IT, RO. The other MS mentioning public sector reform in the NRPs, BG, DE, EE, ES, FI, FR, PT, SK, score significantly higher than the other MS, too. For this dimension, the relatively low score of countries like AT and SE might hint at well-established capacities of LRAs there, so that no major challenges occur in these countries.

<i>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</i>		
No reference	General or minor reference	Specific or cross-cutting reference
15%	67%	19%

The countries with specific references show a mixture of MS with long-standing autonomy of LRAs and countries with ongoing government reforms.

<i>Does the NRP highlight the issue of improving the administrative capacity of sub-national governments in the context of Obstacle to investment respectively removing these?</i>		
No reference	General or minor reference	Specific or cross-cutting reference
33%	41%	26%

The same observations as above apply to this question.

<i>Is there any reference on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?</i>		
No reference	General or minor reference	Specific or cross-cutting reference
11%	33%	56%

The table below shows the policy fields most often mentioned in the specific references pertaining to the question.

**Table 10. Institutional capacity-building targeting LRAs - policy fields**

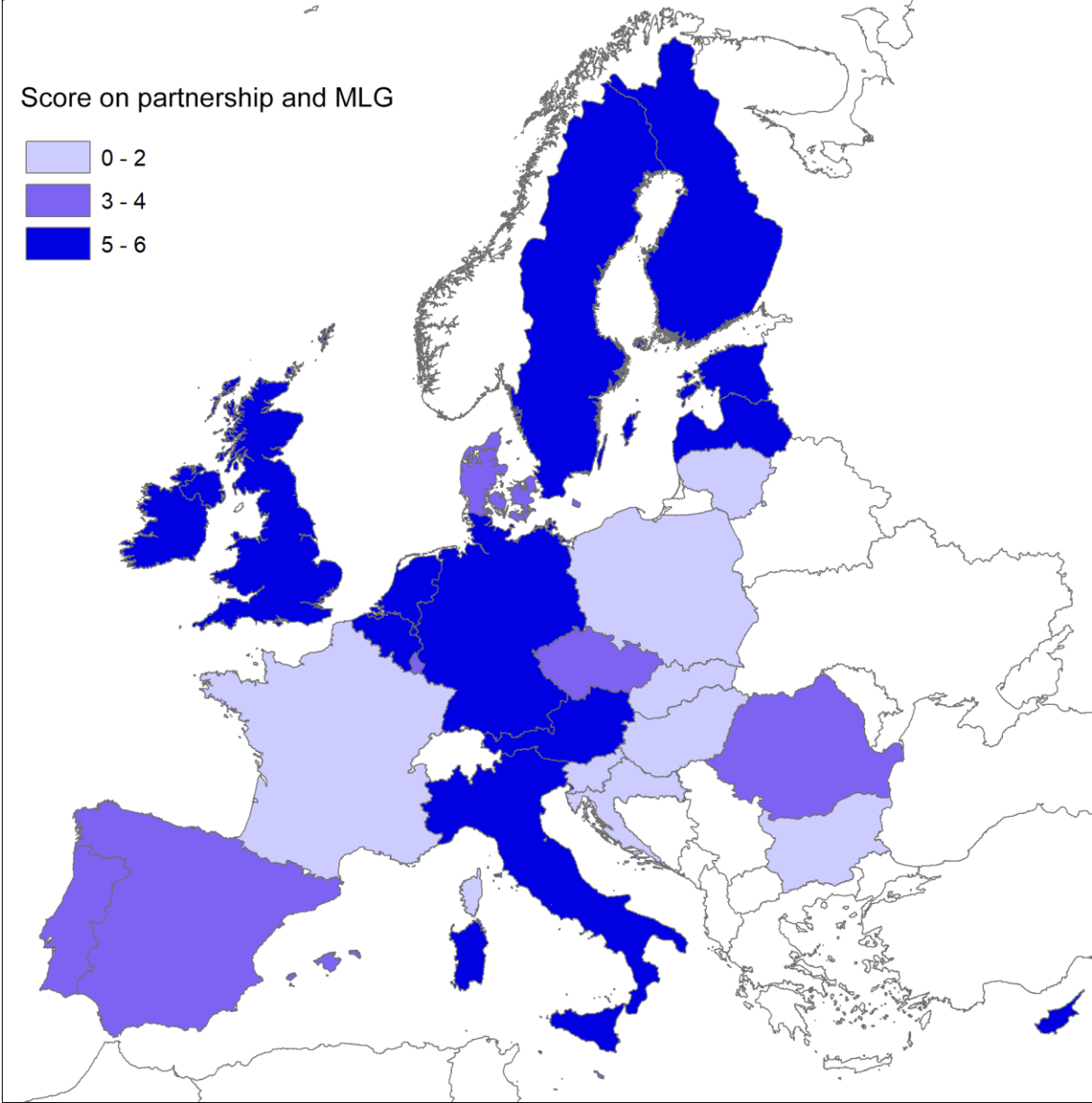
Institutional capacity-building - Policy Fields	Countries (total 15)
<b>1. Administration (10)</b>	BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, ES, HU, LV, MT
2. Energy efficiency/environment (3)	AT, BG, RO
2. Public sector reform (3)	EE, FI, PT
2. Transport (3)	DE, LV, MT
5. SME/business support (2)	DE, LV
5. Social inclusion (2)	CZ, EE

Not surprisingly, by far the most important topic for institutional capacity-building is improvement of administrative processes. More specific programmes focus on a wide variety of topics related to LRA competences, as it was the case

last year. Examples include simplification and efficiency of administration (BE, CZ, EE, HU), procurement (BG), family support and social services (CZ, EE), health (HU), investment and infrastructure (DE, LV, MT), e-government (DE, ES, HU), spatial planning (EE), law enforcement (MT) and land registry (MT).

### 3.6 Partnership and Multi-Level Governance (MLG)

Figure 7. Map illustrating the scoring for the dimension on partnership and MLG<sup>25</sup>



The dimension partnership and MLG shows, not surprisingly, high scores for the three federations among the MS, i.e. AT, BE, DE as well as for other Northern

<sup>25</sup> EL does not submit an NRP.



European countries with a long-standing tradition in local self-government (FI, IE, NL, SE, UK). High-scoring CY, EE, IT undergo public sector reforms. Remarkable are the high scores of the Baltic countries EE and LV.

<i>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level?</i>		
No reference	General or minor reference	Specific or cross-cutting reference
11%	30%	60%

The countries with specific references include on the one hand side those with well-established MLG, on the other hand side countries with ongoing public sector reform.

<i>Does the NRP include any reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</i>		
No reference	General or minor reference	Specific or cross-cutting reference
22%	37%	41%

The following table shows the broad picture of cooperation models between the national government and subnational government levels dealing with the fulfilment of the EU 2020 objectives.

**Table 11. MLG cooperation models targeting EU 2020**

AT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education: Educational and professional career guidance including Social Affairs Ministry, the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, the Federal Ministry of Families and Youth, the Public Employment Service, the Social Affairs Ministry Service, the provinces (Bundesländer), social partners, youth representatives at the federal level and the local communities</li> <li>▪ Climate measures: klimaaktiv brings together players from politics, government, finance and society, disseminates and connects ideas and projects. The relevant target groups are companies, municipalities and households.</li> <li>▪ Sustainability Action Days: Jointly organized and managed by the “Sustainability Coordinators” of the 9 Austrian federal provinces and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism</li> </ul>
CY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Child care services at local level with the involvement of local stakeholders</li> <li>▪ Long term social care programmes</li> </ul>
IE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education: Regional Skills Fora</li> <li>▪ Social inclusion/housing: Rebuilding Ireland – Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness change in policy direction, increasing local authority building activity. The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government is working with Local Authorities and Approved Housing Bodies on issues such as land, resources, planning and design to support accelerated delivery.</li> </ul>

## IT

- RTDI: Agreement on Innovations
- Employment
- La Strategia Nazionale di Sviluppo Sostenibile: sustainable development in the fields of environment, social inclusion

## LU

- Climate Pact
- The Social Aid Law
- Luxembourg Centre for Integration and Social Cohesion

## LV

- Administration
  - Inter-institutional cooperation for successful implementation of investment projects
- SME/Business Support
- Education
  - Support to reduce early school leaving
  - VET (Vocational Education)
  - Career development
- Employment
  - Primarily providing support to employed persons from social risk groups

## NL

- The Innovation Performance Contracts
- "Tackling Early School-Leaving" programme
- The Technology Pact – the connection between the education and the labour market
- City Deals – solutions for integrated customisation within the social domain
- Employment

## SE

- In January 2018 a coordination function for housing policies was established seeking to support LRAs in meeting demand. A central government coordinator has been instructed to identify municipalities that have completed plans for large-scale housing construction that cannot be implemented for some reason, as well as areas that are not included in existing plans and where there is long-term potential for building entirely new cities. Agreements have been entered with three municipalities, and letters of intent have been handed in by two more municipalities.
- Renewable energy: The Government has commissioned the Swedish Energy Agency to distribute SEK 70 million annually in wind power premiums to municipalities in Sweden to increase the establishment of wind power.

## UK

- The Scottish Energy Efficiency Programme (SEEP): This integrated programme of support will deliver through partners in local government, housing associations, communities and the private sector, building on Scotland's existing successful area-based energy efficiency programmes.(cf. NRP, pp. 75-76); recent SEEP route map (May 2018)

*Note: BE, DE provide cross-cutting references.*

<i>Does the NRP include any reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process?</i>		
No reference	General or minor reference	Specific or cross-cutting reference
22%	48%	30%

The focus of interest is on social partners and the involvement of CSOs and NGOs with a clear-cut function in the implementation process, however only in cooperation models involving LRAs. While BE shows cross-cutting references, DE, FI, IE, NL, SE explicitly mention activities involving the social partners.

### 3.7 Comparative analysis

This chapter sketches a comparison of the role of LRAs in the NRPs in the past years. The objects of investigation have been the corresponding studies for the NRPs covering the years 2011 to 2017. As a word of caution, it is important to note that the following analysis describes how the National Reform Programme (NRP) reports on the role and involvement of the Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs). It might be the case that the actual involvement of the LRAs in the preparation and implementation of NRP is not stated in the documents.

In all NRPs, the extent to which LRA involvement and partnership and MLG is mentioned varies by Member State (MS). In all eight analyses of the National Reform Programmes concerning the involvement of the LRAs in the European Semester between 2011 and 2018<sup>26</sup>, it has been stressed that countries with a federal, decentralised government or devolved regional administrations usually provide fuller and more substantial information on LRAs and MLG than those with a centralised government. This can be seen as a hint that NRPs, to a certain extent, actually reflect underlying realities of the role of NRPs.

When looking back on the series of reports since 2011 one has to see that for the analysis of the NRPs 2015<sup>27</sup> the methodology had been fundamentally changed – i.e. the questions were modified and clustered under three key headings, i.e. firstly the involvement of the LRAs in the preparation and implementation of the NRP, secondly the role of Partnership and MLG in the NRP and finally the territorial dimension of the NRP. The latter aspect had been introduced for the first time in 2015. A second major point is that the approach of the assessment has been altered to a certain extent since 2015 – thus the assessment results are

<sup>26</sup> <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/Pages/publi.aspx>

<sup>27</sup> Committee of the Regions, The role of LRA in the implementation of Europe 2020 – analysis of the 2015 NRP, July 2015, Brussels.

only partly comparable. For the 2016 report, an additional cluster on Obstacles to Investment (OtI) has been introduced. The 2017 Report rearranged the clustering of criteria into five dimensions and added two new criteria (see above under Chapter 2 on Methodology). The 2018 Report added an additional question targeting the European Pillar of Social Rights.

**Table 12. Comparative analysis of consistent or specific references in NRPs 2015-2018**

Sub criteria	2015	2016	2017	2018
<i>Territorial dimension</i>				
Challenges and needs	54%	43%	59%	30%
Impact and coverage	36%	25%	52%	22%
Specific policies	57%	75%	67%	89%
<i>Involvement of LRAs</i>				
Preparation	54%	46%	56%	52%
Implementation	82%	86%	74%	64%
Evaluation	n/a	n/a	33%	7%
Europe 2020	75%	64%	67%	56%
European Pillar of Social Rights <sup>28</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a	4%
<i>Obstacles to Investment</i>				
Territorial perspective	n/a	25%	22%	11%
Role of LRAs	n/a	29%	41%	22%
Related policies	n/a	54%	70%	52%
<i>Institutional capacity</i>				
Administrative capacities of LRAs related to NRP and Europe 2020	54%	71%	33%	19%
Administrative capacities of LRAs related to Obstacles to Investment	n/a	n/a	33%	26%
Institutional capacity building	43%	43%	37%	56%
<i>Partnership and Multi-Level Governance</i>				
Coordination among the tiers of administration	82%	64%	56%	59%
Cooperation models	64%	54%	41%	41%
Wider partnership	89%	82%	63%	30%

<sup>28</sup> The highest score “2” was only given when EPSR was explicitly mentioned in connection with LRAs. For 2018, this was only the case for BE.

The questions targeting the mentioning of challenges and problems have significantly lower rankings in 2018 than in the past years because scoring criteria have been applied more strictly, not accepting just implicit mentioning of the challenges<sup>29</sup>. However, the questions analysing specific policy measures show scorings much closer to previous years<sup>30</sup>. For wider partnerships, stricter criteria were applied, allowing the highest score only in cases where CSO/NGO or social partners cooperate with LRAs.

Since the lower average scoring are mainly an artefact of the method, the role of the LRAs in the NRPs can be considered as relatively stable over the years.

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<sup>29</sup> Challenges and needs, Impact and coverage, Evaluation, Territorial perspective, Administrative capacities.

<sup>30</sup> Specific policies, Preparation, Implementation Europe 2020, Related policies, Institutional capacity-building, Coordination among the tiers of government, Cooperation models.

## 4 Conclusions

The overall picture of LRA involvement in the NRPs remains similar to 2017. The highest aggregate scores can be found in Central and Northwest European EU-15 countries with a long tradition of regional self-governance, which is reflected in frequent references to LRA responsibilities, and in countries with ongoing public-sector reforms which are reflected in the NRPs.

The analysis of the five dimensions allows the following conclusions:

- Concerning the territorial dimension, a marked difference can be seen between Western EU-14 and the Eastern European countries (mainly CEEC). If this fact reflects a higher awareness of the territorial dimension of challenges and policies in the “old” MS or merely reflects the prevalence of central governments in the latter group of countries remains to be monitored in the future NRPs.
- Concerning the role of LRAs in preparation and evaluation of NRPs it seems to be most noticeable that only a small number of EU-13 countries (five), but the clear majority of EU-14 countries (12) include a reference to the role of LRAs in the preparation of the NRPs.
- Concerning obstacles to investment, strong involvement of LRAs is found on the one hand side for Northwest European countries with traditionally strong involvement of LRAs, on the other hand side for post-communist CEEC and Mediterranean countries where a certain investment backlog could be supposed.
- The role of administrative capacities is mainly addressed in the NRPs of countries carrying out an administrative reform.
- The dimension partnership and MLG shows high scores for the three federations among the MS, AT, BE, DE as well as for other Northern European countries with a long-standing tradition in local self-government. The other fact reflected in high scorings is ongoing public-sector reform.

Almost 30 years after the political changes in Europe, the analysis of explicit references to LRA involvement in NRPs shows a marked East-West (EU-13/EU-14) divide in Europe. It is very strongly reflected in the scorings of the territorial and MLG dimensions and still clearly visible, however less marked in the dimensions of LRA involvement in NRP/EU2020 and institutional capacity-building as well as in the overall scoring. Only the dimension on obstacles to

investment draws a more balanced picture, probably revealing an investment backlog in the EU-13.

The Territorial Analysis of the Country-specific Recommendations 2018<sup>31</sup> points out that 83% of all CSRs directly or indirectly involve LRAs. According to the present Analysis, all NRPs refer to an involvement of LRAs in CSR implementation, 67% showing specific or cross-cutting references. Specific policies targeting obstacles to investment and administrative capacity-building involving LRAs are mentioned in 52% and 56% of the NRPs, respectively; mirroring the results of the Territorial Analysis.

When it comes to the policy fields, LRAs are involved with, the prevalent recurrent topic of the NRPs is social inclusion. It is by far the issue which is most often cited in connection with the involvement of LRAs. The topic has a clear territorial dimension since it concerns primarily regions with high unemployment, often threatened by a “vicious circle” of shrinking or ageing population, rising social expenses, infrastructural deficits and diminishing economic base. Additional topics, where the involvement of LRAs is explicit, are employment initiatives, education programmes and improvements to the business environment.

The European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) is explicitly mentioned in about a third of all NRPs; however just in one case LRA involvement is explicitly stated. In nearly all NRPs activities relating to the EPSR are mentioned. Almost all MS involve LRAs in the implementation of policies in line with the EPSR without referring to it directly illustrating again the key role of LRAs in the implementation of social policies.

The set of policy fields most often identified in the analysis not only reflects the typical areas of competence for LRS, it also shows that 10 years after the Economic Crisis its aftermaths are still affecting large parts of European society.

The large refugee influx strongly affecting LRAs since summer 2015 still leave their mark in the NRPs, however less pronounced than in the past years.

At a moment where nationalist impulses seem to prevail in many European (and not only European) countries while facing difficult challenges inherited from the past as well as new challenges, the analysis reminds us that these challenges can only be successfully tackled in a joint effort, and that Europe’s LRAs have a key role in the endeavour.

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<sup>31</sup> <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/news/Pages/Territorial-Analysis-of-the-Country-specific-Recommendations-2018.aspx>, [https://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/Documents/publi-file/2018-Territorial-Analysis-of-CSRs/2018\\_CSRs\\_draft\\_final.pdf](https://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/Documents/publi-file/2018-Territorial-Analysis-of-CSRs/2018_CSRs_draft_final.pdf) and [https://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/Documents/publi-file/2018-Territorial-Analysis-of-CSRs/Annex\\_1\\_CSRs\\_2018-17.pdf](https://portal.cor.europa.eu/europe2020/Documents/publi-file/2018-Territorial-Analysis-of-CSRs/Annex_1_CSRs_2018-17.pdf).

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[https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/european-semester\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/european-semester_en)

# Annex 1: Country Fiche template

Table 13. Country Fiche Template

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<b><i>Introductory information</i></b>		
Regions and their role		Source of information
Regional disparities in the MS		Source of information
Role of the local and regional authorities		Source of information
<b><i>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</i></b>		<b><i>Overall score</i></b>
Disparities, challenges and needs		
Impact / Coverage		
Specific policies		
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b><i>Overall score</i></b>
Preparation of the NRP		
Implementation of the NRP		
Evaluation of the NRP		
Europe 2020		
European Pillar of Social Rights		
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investments</i></b>		<b><i>Overall score</i></b>
Territorial perspective		
Role of LRAs		
Related policies		

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<b><i>d) Institutional capacity</i></b>		<b><i>Overall score</i></b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway		
Administrative capacity related to investment policies		
Institutional capacity-building		
<b><i>e) Partnership and MLG</i></b>		<b><i>Overall score</i></b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration		
Cooperation models		
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)		

## Annex 2: Assessment in detail

### Territorial dimension

#### Disparities, challenges and needs

Key evaluation question:

*Does the NRP reflect territorial disparities, challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?*

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	5	No reference: AT, DK, HU, MT, SI
1	14	General or minor reference: CY, CZ, EE, FI, HR, IE, LT, LU, LV, NL, PL, PT, RO,SK
2	8	Consistent and/or specific references: BE: Cross-cutting references BG: Employment, Education (Adult education), Health Care, Social Inclusion (Roma, People with special needs, Elderly) DE: Employment, Digital Infrastructure, Social Inclusion (Housing, Refugees), Energy Infrastructure ES: Social Inclusion FR: Health Care, Digital Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development IT: Education SE: Employment, Social Inclusion (housing), Education UK: cross cutting References

Source: Country Fiches.

#### Impact and coverage

Key evaluation question:

*Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?*

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	8	No reference: AT, CY, CZ, EE, HU, LT, NL, SI
1	13	General or minor reference: BG, DK, ES, FI, FR, HR, MT, PL, PT, RO, SE, SK, UK
2	6	Consistent and/or specific references: BE, DE, IE, IT, LU, LV

Source: Country Fiches.

## Specific policies

### Key evaluation question:

*Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?*

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	1	No reference: NL
1	2	General or minor reference: AT, SI
2	24	Consistent and/or specific references: BE: Cross-cutting references BG: Employment(Young People), Health Care, RTDI(Research, Technological Development and Innovation), CY: Digital Infrastructure, SME/Business Support, Spatial Planning/Regional Development, Health Care, Administration CZ: Social Inclusion(housing), Social Inclusion, Employment, Regional development DE: SME/Business Support, Employment DK: SME/Business Support, RTDI(Research, Technological Development and Innovation), Social Inclusion(Housing), Education(Higher Education) EE: Education (Secondary Schools), Health Care, Energy Efficiency (Local heating systems), Supply of construction minerals, Spatial Planning/Regional Planning, Employment, ES: Education, Transport, Energy, Social Inclusion (People with special needs), Education FI: Public Sector Reform, Administration, regional development, Employment FR: Social Inclusion (Housing), Transport, Agriculture, Regional Development, Energy Sector HR: Social Inclusion, Administration, SME/Business Support, Transport & Transport Infrastructure, Employment, Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing, Health Care HU: Education (Disadvantaged students, Roma, Teacher training), Social Inclusion (Improvement of the situation of families with children in difficult conditions small regions, Family-friendly institutions, Integrated regional child programmes in disadvantaged regions), Health Care, Childcare, Employment, Spatial Planning/ Regional Development, Transport & Transport Infrastructure, Energy Efficiency (Renewable Energy) IE: Regional development, Social inclusion (housing) IT: employment, SME, Social Inclusion(housing), Education, Transport, Support to the enterprises, Environment LT: education, Renewable energy, employment, Education (Adult learning)

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
		LU: Transport & Transport Infrastructure, Environment/Climate Measures, Social Inclusion (Refugees), Structural Funds LV: Health Care, Education, SME/Business Support, Transport & Transport Infrastructure, Spatial Planning/Regional Development, Social Inclusion (multifunctional youth initiative Centres, increase in the number of foster families, guardians and adopters), Employment, Energy Efficiency MT: RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation), Environment/Climate Measures, Employment, SME/Business Support PL: social Inclusion, Health care, Environment, Childcare, Education, Employment PT: Health Care, Tourism, Social Inclusion, Regional Development, Business Support, Administration, Water sector, Energy, Employment, Energy Efficiency, Environment RO: Regional development, Transport infrastructure, Water Sector, renewable energy, Employment, Education, Social Inclusion, Health Care SE: Social Inclusion (housing), regional development, SK: Employment, Social Inclusion (Roma, Housing, Social Services) UK: Employment, RTDI, Energy infrastructure

Source: Country Fiches.

## Involvement of LRAs in the NRP

### Preparation of the NRP

Key evaluation question:

*Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?*

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	10	No reference: BG, CZ, EE, HR, HU, LU, PT, RO, SI, SK
1	3	General or minor reference: AT, LT, UK
2	14	Specific references: BE, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, IE, IT, LV, MT, NL, PL, SE

Source: Country Fiches.

## Implementation of the NRP

### Key evaluation question:

*Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. do the NRP/the CSR include concise references to specific policy fields / financing / other policy levers?*

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	0	No reference
1	9	General or minor reference: BG, FR, HR, LT, LU, MT, PT, SI, SK
2	18	Consistent and/or specific references: AT: energy efficiency, Education, BE: Fiscal Policy, Employment, Education, Social Inclusion(Refugees), Administration, SME/Business Support CY: Digital Infrastructure, SME/Business Support, Spatial Planning/Regional Development, Health Care, Administration CZ: Social Inclusion, Housing, Climate measures, Energy Efficiency, Transport DE: Cross-cutting references DK: Employment, Social Inclusion (Refugees), Education (Primary and lower secondary Education), SME/Business Support EE: Education (Prevention dropouts – „Youth Guarantee support system”, “Youth Prop Up” programme), Employment, Administration, Health Care, Social Inclusion (People with special needs, Social Services), Childcare, Transport &Transport Infrastructure, Spatial Planning/Regional Development, Energy Efficiency, Environment, Public Sector Reform ES: Fiscal Policy, Employment, Social Inclusion, Education, RTDI, Business Support FI: Health Care, Social Inclusion HU: SME/ Business Support, Administration IE: Regional development IT: employment, education, social inclusion, business support, RTDI, transport, Fiscal policy, climate measures LV: Education (Extending the range of implementers of work-based learning), Administration, Fiscal Policy, SME/Business Support, Transport & Transport Infrastructure NL: Regional Development, Social Inclusion, SME/Business Support, Education PL: Business Support, Health Care RO: Public Sector Reforming, Administration, Business Support SE: Employment, Social Inclusion, Education, Climate measure, sustainable energy, Transport, RTDI UK: fiscal policy, social inclusion (housing), education, employment, administration

Source: Country Fiches.

## Evaluation of the NRP

### Key evaluation question:

*Are the proceedings for the evaluation of the NRP/CSRs for previous years addressed in the document? Do LRAs have role in it?*

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	17	No reference: AT, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EE, ES, FI, HR, HU, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, RO, SI
1	8	General or minor reference: BE, IE, IT, PL, PT, SE, SK, UK
2	2	Consistent and/or specific references: DK, FR:

Source: Country Fiches.

## EU 2020

### Key evaluation question:

*Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?*

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	5	No reference: CY, CZ, FR, LT, SK
1	7	General or minor reference: BG, HR, HU, PT, RO, SI, UK
2	15	Consistent and/or specific references: AT: Energy efficiency/Renewable energy, Environment, Climate measures, Transport and Transport infrastructure, Administration, Employment, Education, RTDI BE: Employment, RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation), Education, Energy Efficiency, Environment/Climate Measures, Social Inclusion DE: Employment, RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation), Education, Social Inclusion, Environment/Climate Measures DK: Education, Social Inclusion, RTDI(Research, Technological Development and Innovation), EE: Education (Prevention dropouts – „Youth Guarantee support system”, “Youth Prop Up” programme), Employment, Administration, Health Care, Social Inclusion (People with special needs, Social Services), Childcare, Transport &Transport



Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
		<p>Infrastructure, Spatial Planning/Regional Development, Energy Efficiency, Environment, Public Sector Reform</p> <p>ES: Employment, Social Inclusion, RTDI, Education</p> <p>FI: Energy, Business Support, Climate, RTDI</p> <p>IE: Employment, Business Support, Social Inclusion (Housing)</p> <p>IT: RTDI, Social inclusion, Energy Efficiency, transport, Climate measures</p> <p>LU: Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure, Energy Efficiency, Social Inclusion</p> <p>LV: Environment, Education (Support to reduce early school leaving, Career development, Ensuring homogeneous distribution of special education institutions-development centres), Social Inclusion (Implementation of projects within the scope of MES Youth Policy State Programme 2017 -strengthening partnership between local governments and youth organisations, Social work specialists will improve their professional competence, Cooperation between institutions and professionals – social work in the community will be developed, Roma – cooperation and dialogue between Roma civic society; better coordination and implementation of Roma integration policy package, Family-Friendly Municipality programme), SME/Business Support, Childcare, Healthcare, Energy Efficiency</p> <p>MT: Environment/Climate Measures, Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure, Education (Adult learning), Administration</p> <p>NL: Social Inclusion( Housing, Child Poverty), Employment, Health Care, Education, RTDI(Research, Technological Development and Innovation)</p> <p>PL: Employment, Environment/Climate measures, Social Inclusion</p> <p>SE: cross cutting references</p>

Source: Country Fiches.

## European Pillar of Social Rights

### Key evaluation question:

*Is the European Pillar of Social Rights explicitly mentioned in NRP? Does the NRP hint at any concrete actions at MS level? Are sub-national governments involved in the implementation of the EPSR?*

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	1	No reference: BG
1	25	General or minor reference: AT, CY; CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, UK
2	1	Consistent and/or specific references: BE

Source: Country Fiches.

## Obstacles to Investment

### Territorial perspective

Key evaluation question:

*Does the NRP offer a differentiated picture related to investment needs at local and regional level?*

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	11	No reference: AT, FR, HU, IE, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PT, SI
1	13	General or minor reference: BG, CY, CZ, DK, EE, ES, FI, HR, IT, PL, RO, SE, SK
2	3	Consistent and/or specific references: BE, DE, UK:

Source: Country Fiches.

### Role of LRAs

Key evaluation question:

*Does the NRP review the governance issue, i.e. the framework for investment at LRA level?*

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	8	No reference: BG, CZ, DK, FR, LT, NL, PT, SK
1	13	General or minor reference: AT, CY, EE, HR, HU, IE, IT, LU, LV, MT, RO, SI, UK
2	6	Consistent and/or specific references: BE, DE, ES, FI, PL, SE

Source: Country Fiches.

## Related policies

### Key evaluation question:

*Are there any (next to a system of fiscal equalisation) policy levers which support investment activities of LRAs?*

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	4	No reference: DK, LT, PT, SK
1	9	General or minor reference: EE, FI, HR, LV, MT, NL, RO, SE, SI
2	14	Consistent and/or specific references: AT: Education, Fiscal policy, energy efficiency, Social inclusion, Social inclusion (housing) BE: SME/Business Support, Regional Development BG: Administration, SME/Business Support, Fiscal Policy CY: Health Care, Social Inclusion, SME/Business Support, Public Sector Reform, Administration, Fiscal Policy, Digital, Infrastructure, Spatial Planning/Regional Development CZ: European Funds, Housing, Employment, Climate measures DE: SME/Business Support, Fiscal Policy, Administration, Social Inclusion, Education ES: Education, Health Care, Social Inclusion FR: Business Support HU: SME/Business Support, Administration, RTDI(Research, Technological Development and Innovation) IE: Fiscal Policy, Business Support, Transport, Water Sector, Social Inclusion (Housing) IT: administration, Agriculture, Business support, Environment LU: Energy Efficiency, SME/Business Support, Administration PL: Business Support, Administration, RTDI UK: Social Inclusion (housing)

*Source: Country Fiches.*

## **Institutional capacity**

### **Administrative capacity LRAs related to NRP and EU 2020**

#### Key evaluation question:

*In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?*

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	4	No reference: AT, HU, IE, UK
1	18	General reference: BG, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, LT, LU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI
2	5	Consistent and/or specific references: BE, CY, IT, LV, SK

Source: Country Fiches.

### **Administrative capacity LRAs related to investment policies**

#### Key evaluation question:

*Does the NRP highlight the issue of improving the administrative capacity of sub-national governments in the context of Obstacle to investment respectively removing these?*

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	9	No reference: AT, CZ, EE, HU, IE, LT, PT, SE, SI
1	11	General reference: BG, DE, DK, ES, FI, HR, LU, MT, NL, PL, SK
2	7	Consistent and/or specific references: BE, CY, FR, IT, LV, RO, UK

Source: Country Fiches.

## **Institutional capacity-building**

#### Key evaluation question:

*Is there any reference on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?*

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	3	No reference: IE, PL, SI
1	9	General or minor reference: DK, FR, IT, LT, LU, NL, SE, SK, UK
2	15	Consistent and/or specific references: AT: Education, Energy efficiency BE: Administration BG: Administration, Energy Efficiency (Renewable Energy) CY: Administration, Employment CZ: Social Inclusion, Administration, DE: SME/Business Support, Administration, Transport & Transport Infrastructure EE: Public Sector Reform, Administration, Social Inclusion (Social Services), Spatial Planning/Regional Development ES: Administration FI: Public Sector Reform HR: HU: Administration, Health Care LV: Administration, SME/Business Support, Transport & Transport Infrastructure MT: Administration, Transport & Transport Infrastructure PT: Public Sector Reform RO: Environmental Protection,

Source: Country Fiches.

## Partnership and MLG

### Coordination among the tiers of administration

Key evaluation question:

*Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level?*

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	3	No reference: LT, PL, SK
1	8	General or minor reference: BG, CZ, FR, HU, LU, LV, MT, SI
2	16	Consistent and/or specific references: AT, BE, CY, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, HR, IE, IT, NL, PT, RO, SE, UK

Source: Country Fiches.

## Cooperation models

### Key evaluation question:

*Does the NRP include any reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?*

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	6	No reference: BG, FR, HR, LT, SI, SK
1	10	General or minor reference: CZ, DK, EE, ES, FI, HU, MT, PL, PT, RO
2	11	Consistent and/or specific references: AT, BE, CY, DE, IE, IT, LU, LV, NL, SE, UK

*Source: Country Fiches.*

## Wider partnership (multi-actorship)

### Key evaluation question:

*Does the NRP include any reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process?*

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	6	No reference: HR, HU, LT, LU, RO, SI
1	13	General or minor reference: AT, BG, CY, CZ, DK, ES, FR, IT, MT, PL, PT, SK, UK
2	8	Consistent and/or specific references: BE, DE, EE, FI, IE, LV, NL, SE

*Source: Country Fiches.*



# Annex 3: Total scores of LRA involvement

**Table 14. Total scores of LRA involvement in the NRP per country and dimension of the analysis**

		AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	UK	
a) Territorial dimension	Disparities, challenges and needs	0	2	2	1	1	2	0	1	2	1	2	1	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	2	
	Impact / Coverage	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	2	0	2	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
	Specific policies	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
	<i>Total Territorial dimension per country</i>	1	6	5	3	3	6	3	3	5	4	5	4	2	5	6	3	5	5	3	1	4	4	4	4	5	1	4	5
b) Involvement of LRAs in the NRP	Preparation	1	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	2	0	0	2	2	1	0	2	2	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	
	Implementation of CRS	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	
	Evaluation of NRP Europe 2020	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	
	European Pillar of Social Rights	2	2	1	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	0	1	1	2	2	0	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	0	1	
	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
<i>Total Involvement per country</i>	6	9	2	5	3	7	9	5	7	7	6	3	4	8	8	3	4	7	6	7	8	4	4	8	3	3	6		
c) Obstacles to Investment	Territorial perspective	0	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	2	
	Role of LRAs	1	2	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	1	2	1	0	1	
	Related policies	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	0	2	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	0	2	
	<i>Total Obstacles to Investment</i>	3	6	3	4	3	6	1	3	5	4	2	3	3	3	4	0	3	2	2	1	5	0	3	4	2	1	5	
d) Institutional capacity	Administrative capacity of LRAs related to CRS/Europe 2020	0	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	
	Administrative capacity of LRAs related to investment policy	0	2	1	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	2	
	Institutional capacity-building	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	0	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	2	2	1	0	1	1	
	<i>Total Institutional capacity per country</i>	2	6	4	6	3	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	2	0	5	2	3	6	4	3	2	3	5	2	1	4	3	
e) Partnership and MLG	Coordination among the tiers of administration	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	0	1	1	1	2	0	2	2	2	1	0	2	
	Cooperation models	2	2	0	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	2	0	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	0	0	2	
	Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	2	1	1	0	2	0	1	1	
	<i>Total Partnership per country</i>	5	6	2	5	3	6	4	5	4	5	2	2	2	6	5	0	3	5	3	6	2	4	3	6	1	1	5	
<i>Grand total per country</i>	17	33	16	23	15	29	20	19	25	24	19	16	13	22	28	8	18	25	18	18	21	15	19	25	8	13	24		





# Annex 4: Country Fiches

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## Country Fiches of each NRP

This section comprises 27 country fiches of the EU Member States<sup>32</sup> analysing the current National Reform Programmes as a consolidated version to give an overview. It is based on the extended version including a justification column referring to the concrete parts in the Reform Programmes which was used for the comparative analysis. The following template (including the evaluation questions and explanations – marked in red) has been used for the assessment.

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<sup>32</sup> The National Reform Programme of Greece was not available.

## Country Fiche – Model 2018

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions and explanations – marked in red)	Source / Scoring	Justification of scoring / references to pages in NRP / accompanying documents
<b>Introductory information</b>			
Basic features of the administrative system	<b>To be completed later</b>	Source of information	N/A
Regions and their role	Existence of regions which are not merely statistical regions - <b>to be completed later</b>	Source of information	N/A
Regional disparities in the MS	Small or high disparities between the regions in the MS – <b>to be completed later</b>	Source of information	N/A
<b>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</b>		<b>Overall score</b>	
Disparities, challenges and needs  Does the NRP reflect territorial disparities, challenges, needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?	From 2015 Report onwards the CoR has requested a focus on the territorial dimension of the NRP – one of the points of departure for a consideration on the territorial dimension is that certain territories or LRAs are being highlighted in the document. The ToRs for 2017 highlight the term <i>territorial disparities</i> in a comprehensive sense, i.e. in social economic, environmental terms but also in terms of administrative capacity and access to finance. This overlaps with other questions in previous sections – thus here it would be good to provide an analysis related to this comprehensive notion of territorial disparities.	Score	
Impact / Coverage  Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?	A second step is to include an impact assessment since the impact of sectorial approaches might differ between territories  Areas which are touched in many MS are in particular employment, labour market and social policies – unemployment at regional level is for obvious reasons a politically sensitive issue	Score	

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions and explanations – marked in red)	Source / Scoring	Justification of scoring / references to pages in NRP / accompanying documents
<p>Specific policies</p> <p>Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?</p>	<p>For obvious reasons this marks the highest stage of a territorial dimension in the NRP – this means that the policy design is targeted at a specific type of regions such as rural peripheral regions or old industrial areas etc. or that a specific part of the country is subject of a targeted development programme etc.</p>	<p>Score</p>	
<p><b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b></p>		<p><b><i>Overall score</i></b></p>	
<p>Preparation of the NRP</p> <p>Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?</p>	<p>The more clear and explicit the reference is the better. The obvious point is the commitment and ownership of the underlying strategy – which can be based on participation and representation in the preparatory process (as the main point here) or e.g. only through legal instruments (see following questions)</p>	<p>Score</p>	
<p>Implementation of the NRP</p> <p>Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ specific policy fields</li> <li>▪ financing</li> <li>▪ other policy levers</li> </ul>	<p>This is one of the key questions – your response should also allow for an understanding whether the role of LRAs is going through the majority of policy areas or the dominant areas or whether it is restricted to certain rather specific areas.</p>	<p>Score</p>	
<p>Evaluation of the NRP</p> <p>Are the proceedings for the evaluation of the</p>	<p>Learning cycles on policy effectiveness beyond the feedback of the EC (in CRs, CSRs) could be a useful tool</p>		

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions and explanations – marked in red)	Source / Scoring	Justification of scoring / references to pages in NRP / accompanying documents
<p>NRP/CSRs for previous years addressed in the document? Do LRAs have role in it?</p>			
<p>Europe 2020</p> <p>Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?</p>	<p>The NRPs should include a specific section or specific references to EU 2020 – please mark out whether in this context the role and position of LRAs is made explicit – please consider again whether it is a rather comprehensive reference or restricted to small, ‘isolated’ policy areas</p>	Score	
<p>European Pillar of Social Rights</p> <p>Is the European Pillar of Social Rights explicitly mentioned in NRP? Does the NRP hint at any concrete actions at MS level? Are sub-national governments involved in the implementation of the EPSR?</p>	<p>The European Pillar of Social Rights was presented in April 2017 and sets out 20 key principles and rights to support fair and well-functioning labour markets and welfare systems. <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/commission/priorities/deeper-and-fairer-economic-and-monetary-union/european-pillar-social-rights_en">https://ec.europa.eu/commission/priorities/deeper-and-fairer-economic-and-monetary-union/european-pillar-social-rights_en</a> The EPSR has 3 main categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equal opportunities and access to the labour market</li> <li>- Fair working conditions</li> <li>- Social protection and inclusion</li> </ul> <p>The underlying intent is that the EPSR leads subsequently to changes in legislation or institutional practice in labour and social laws of the MS (EC being aware that these policy areas are mostly in discretion of MS).</p>	Score	
<b>c) Obstacles to Investment</b>			
Territorial perspective	Are the obstacles to investments territorially		

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions and explanations – marked in red)	Source / Scoring	Justification of scoring / references to pages in NRP / accompanying documents
Does the NRP offer a differentiated picture related to investment needs at local and regional level?	<p>differentiated?</p> <p>One of the essential policy lever is whether a system of fiscal equalisation exists (i.e. a partial redistribution of tax incomes between national, regional and local levels which enables also less wealthy LRAs to cover the basic requirements in terms infrastructure) – such system will tend to make gradients in tax revenues less marked - but does hardly exist in EU-13</p> <p>There might be differences between cities and (smaller) rural municipalities since there might be differences in terms of competences; also local taxes might tend to widen the gap – e.g. between municipalities showing a concentration of businesses versus rural / peripheral ones</p>		
<p>Role of LRAs</p> <p>Does the NRP review the governance issue, i.e. the framework for investment at LRA level</p>	<p>Have the LRAs competences, budgets and capacities to remove obstacles to investments?</p> <p>To which extent does the NRP address the governance issue <u>related to investment</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Does the NRP refer to the division of task and competences between the tiers of government related to investment – in general or according to sectors – except of social and employment policies most policy areas include investment (transport, waste, water supply, waste water, health (polyclinics etc.), business zones etc.</li> <li>▪ Does a system of fiscal equalisation exist?</li> <li>▪ It is obvious that investing would mean to have a</li> </ul>		

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions and explanations – marked in red)	Source / Scoring	Justification of scoring / references to pages in NRP / accompanying documents
	<p>minimum of budget and legal certainty in order to provide own resources (own resources are required to a minimum extent even in ESIF in EU-13 – even if pre-financing is offered from the national level such as in SK)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It requires a minimum of competences and capacities to plan and develop adequate investment strategies – e.g. support from national level to LRAs in terms of consultancy or any legal obligations that LRAs have to submit plans to the national government?</li> </ul>		
<p>Related policies</p> <p>Are there any (next to a system of fiscal equalisation) policy levers which support investment activities of LRAs?</p>	<p>Are there explicit policies for removing obstacles to investments?</p> <p>This would mean for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ particular funds dedicated to local investment in e.g. basic infrastructure such as water supply, sewerage, waste management or support programmes run as MLG (such as the Gemeinschaftsaufgaben in DE)</li> <li>▪ regional agencies which provide support for the local level to gain assistance from ESIF: i.e. dedicated support thus making the success in ESIF not a mere matter of project generation capacity</li> <li>▪ support to associations of municipalities to fund basic infrastructure</li> <li>▪ capacity building actions</li> <li>▪ (Integrated) Regional Operation Programmes in ESIF which target deprived areas</li> <li>▪ Etc.</li> </ul>		
<b>d) Institutional capacity</b>		<b>Overall score</b>	

<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions and explanations – marked in red)</b>	<b>Source / Scoring</b>	<b>Justification of scoring / references to pages in NRP / accompanying documents</b>
<p>Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway</p> <p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</p>	<p>Administrative capacity is an obvious precondition for any consolidated policy at level of LRAs.</p> <p>It is evident that the national level has a decisive role in developing and guiding the implementation – an increasing role of the LRAs in implementation does usually require increasing administrative capacities – does the NRP reflect the issue of administrative capacities?</p>	Score	
<p>Administrative capacity related to investment policies</p> <p>Does the NRP highlight the issue of improving the administrative capacity of sub-national governments in the context of obstacles to investment respectively removing these?</p>		Score	
<p>Institutional capacity-building</p> <p>Is there a reference to institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?</p>	<p>Active approaches to capacity-building can demonstrate a commitment to MLG.</p> <p>A qualified participation / role in the implementation of most policy fields does in many cases require capacity-building and regular, transparent information ....</p>	Score	
<b><i>e) Partnership and MLG</i></b>		<b><i>Overall score</i></b>	
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p>	<p>As a first stage of consideration related to MLG.</p>	Score	



Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions and explanations – marked in red)	Source / Scoring	Justification of scoring / references to pages in NRP / accompanying documents
Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Are there any general framework agreement or treaty which tie the government levels together in essential policy fields?</li> <li>▪ Do tax equalisation mechanism between the tiers of government exist (which to some extent necessitate the existence of coordination frameworks for negotiation etc.)</li> <li>▪ Do committees or less binding forms of coordination frameworks exist?</li> <li>▪ Do particularly interesting examples for specific sectors exist?</li> </ul>		
<p>Cooperation models</p> <p>Is there a reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</p>	<p>Cooperation should be target-oriented – models testify the will to experiment.</p> <p>The question aims at particularly interesting models of cooperation – but please be aware that it must be key policy elements of the NRP – so also the ‘weight’ of the policy area is decisive ...</p>	Score	
<p>Wider partnership (multi-actorship)</p> <p>Is there a reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process?</p>	<p>Please mark out in which contexts wider partnerships are explicitly mentioned and if there are any hints on the types of partners involved – the focus of interest is on social partners and the involvement of CSOs / NGOs</p>	Score	

## 5.1 Country Fiche – AT Austria

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Basic features of the administrative system	<p>Austria is a federal state consisting of nine federal provinces. Its constitution is typically republican-democratic and is based on a (moderately) federalist structure. The federal state (in constitutional terms: the superordinate state; in Austria colloquially known as "<i>Bund</i>", i.e. "the federation") is in charge of key tasks such as federal legislation, external and defence policies as well as ordinary jurisdiction (i.e. courts of general jurisdiction).</p> <p>The implementation structures for ESIF have been streamlined for the period 2014-2020: in the mainstream ERDF programme former 9 programmes have been merged into one for the current period. In the ESF, the number of Managing Authorities has been reduced from two to one.</p>	<p>Government official website:  <a href="https://www.wien.gv.at/english/administration/organisation/austria/structure/">https://www.wien.gv.at/english/administration/organisation/austria/structure/</a></p> <p>NRP for Austria, 2018</p>
Regions and their role	<p>The Republic is divided into nine federal provinces ("<i>Länder</i>"), which are also vested with legislative and executive powers.</p> <p>Compared to other Member States the disparities between regions are less marked which is also a consequence of a long-standing system of fiscal equalisation. The regional (<i>Länder</i>) as well as the local level have ample competences in particular in the provision of main public amenities. Due to the system of fiscal equalisation the local level is able to provide key public services and to maintain the key infrastructure. Larger development projects are usually implemented as joint financing effort between the three tiers of government, i.e. national, regional and local.</p>	
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2016 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average</p> <p>(capital region - highest – lowest):            Vienna 153% – Salzburg 154% – Burgenland 88%</p>	Eurostat, 2018

<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Evaluation / Assessment</b>	<b>Source / Scoring</b>
<b><i>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</i></b>		<b><i>1</i></b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Impact / Coverage	The impacts are described in some detail for the policy fields mentioned in Table 2 and Table 3. The territorial aspects are hardly highlighted although they can be assumed.	0
Specific policies	Mentioned are education and transport infrastructure projects.  Explicit mentions of the regions are in the education field, e.g. the reform of teacher training is expected to have positive effects on the entire education system in Austria and in the measure: developing a new Broadband Strategy 2030 where the measure is expected to intensify the development of nationwide fibre infrastructure by applying new strategies.	1
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b><i>6</i></b>
Preparation of the NRP	The respective section mentions the contribution of local and provincial government to CSR and EU202; however, without specifying details.	1
Implementation of the NRP	The LRAs are mentioned in relation to the following fields: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Clearly indicated participation of the Provincial and Local Governments to stimulate market players from the energy sector to improve energy efficiency</li> <li>▪ Explicit mentioning of the LRAs and their involvement in reaching the Europe 2020 targets and the CSRs</li> <li>▪ Explicit involvement LRAs in achieving the Europe 2020 targets in employment, energy and climate protection, RTDI and social inclusion</li> <li>▪ Education: continued Lifelong Learning strategy executed jointly by the Federal and the Provincial Governments</li> </ul>	2
Evaluation of the NRP	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Europe 2020	The Austrian federal government is making every effort to implement the Europe 2020 strategy in close collaboration with the provincial governments, regions and	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<p>local governments as well as the social partners and other relevant interest groups. The joint contribution of the social partners to the National Reform Programme can be found in Annex 2, Table 3. This list of selected projects provides insights into the many activities being carried out to address a variety of issues and offer bespoke solutions.</p> <p>The specific measures taken by the provincial governments to implement the country-specific recommendations and to attain Austria's national Europe 2020 targets are summarised in Annex 2, Table 1, and Annex 2, Table 2. While not exhaustive, this documentation does provide insights into the political strategies and measures at provincial level, especially in the areas of employment, education and improvement of educational achievements of disadvantaged groups, energy and climate protection, R&amp;D, and combating poverty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Energy efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Renewable Energy</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Environment &amp; Climate Measures</li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation)</li> </ul>	
European Pillar of Social Rights	<p>EPSR is not explicitly mentioned in the documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Policy measures in line with the principles of EPSR and including LRAs are mentioned.</li> </ul>	1
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investments</i></b>		<b>3</b>
Territorial perspective	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Role of LRAs	The investment capacity of LRAs are improved through EU funds, for example the EFRE Regional Programme 2014-2020 which finances the following fields:	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation)</li> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> <li>▪ Energy Efficiency               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Renewable Energy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Related policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pre-school and compulsory schooling</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Fiscal Policy               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enhancing the Local Government’s autonomy on tax issues</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Energy Efficiency</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Housing</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Administration</li> </ul>	2
<b>d) Institutional capacity</b>		<b>2</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Institutional capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Education</li> <li>- Administration               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ As part of the educational reform, administration on provincial level will be concentrated in one educational board (“Bildungsdirektionen”)</li> <li>○ Schools will be granted more autonomy</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Energy Efficiency               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ RESET2020 project “Resource Efficient Municipalities and Regions”</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Environment &amp; Climate Measures</li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>e) Partnership and MLG</i>		<b>5</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	The Austrian federal government is making every effort to implement the Europe 2020, strategy in close collaboration with the provincial governments, regions and local governments as well as the social partners and other relevant interest groups.	2
Cooperation models	<p>Cooperation models are mentioned in the sectors of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Education: Educational and professional career guidance including Social Affairs Ministry, the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, the Federal Ministry of Families and Youth, the Public Employment Service, the Social Affairs Ministry Service, the provinces (Bundesländer), social partners, youth representatives at the federal level and the local communities</li> <li>- Environment &amp; Climate Measures: klimaaktiv brings together players from politics, government, finance and society, disseminates and connects ideas and projects. The relevant target groups are companies, municipalities and households.</li> <li>- Sustainability Action Days: Jointly organized and managed by the “Sustainability Coordinators” of the 9 Austrian federal provinces and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism</li> </ul>	2
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	The social partners are traditionally important partners in the implementation of strategies and measures. See educational and professional career guidance above.	1

## 5.2 Country Fiche – BE Belgium

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Basic features of the administrative system	<p>Belgium is divided in three regions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the <a href="#">Brussels-Capital Region</a> (Brussels)</li> <li>▪ the <a href="#">Flemish Region</a> (Flanders) with 5 provinces</li> <li>▪ the <a href="#">Walloon Region</a> (Wallonia) with 5 provinces</li> </ul> <p>The three regions are further subdivided into 589 municipalities, which in general consist of several sub-municipalities. The three language communities – having no powers - are the <a href="#">Dutch-speaking Vlaamse Gemeenschap</a> ("Flemish Community"), the <a href="#">French-speaking Communauté Française</a> ("French Community") and the <a href="#">German-speaking Deutschsprachige Gemeinschaft</a> ("German-speaking Community").</p>	<p>National Reform Programme, Belgium 2018.</p> <p>Radzyner, A. &amp; al. (2014)</p>
Regions and their role	<p>The Flemish Region (Flanders) and the Walloon Region (Wallonia) each comprise five <b>provinces</b>. The third region, Brussels-Capital Region, is not a province, nor does it contain any. It is roughly akin to a federal district. The three regions are further subdivided into 589 <b>municipalities</b>, which in general consist of several sub-municipalities.</p> <p>All these entities have geographical boundaries: the language areas, the communities, the regions, the provinces and the municipalities. The language areas have no offices or powers and exist de facto as geographical circumscriptions, serving only to delineate the empowered subdivisions. The institutional communities are thus equally geographically determined.</p> <p>All Communities thus have a precise and legally established area where they can exercise their competencies: the Flemish Community has legal authority (for its Community competencies) only within the Dutch language area (which coincides with the Flemish Region) and bilingual Brussels-Capital language area (which coincides with the Region by that name); the French-speaking Community analogously has powers only within the French language area of the</p>	<p>National Reform Programme, Belgium 2018.</p> <p>Radzyner, A. &amp; al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European union, 2014.</p>

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<p>Walloon Region and in the Brussels-Capital Region, and the German Community in the German language area, which is a small part of the province of Liège in the Walloon region, and borders Germany.</p> <p>The three regions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the Brussels-Capital Region (Brussels)</li> <li>▪ the Flemish Region (Flanders)</li> <li>▪ the Walloon Region (Wallonia)</li> </ul> <p>The three communities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the Dutch-speaking Vlaamse Gemeenschap ("Flemish Community")</li> <li>▪ the French-speaking Communauté Française ("French Community")</li> <li>▪ the German-speaking Deutschsprachige Gemeinschaft ("German-speaking Community").</li> </ul> <p>Looking at Structural funds, ERDF OP implementation was decentralised in 5 different regions with high autonomy and detached administration. According to the NRP, the governments concluded agreements on institutional reforms which materialized in the sixth state reform that entered into force on July 1st, 2014. The state reform increased the competences of the Regions and the Communities, further adding to the importance of good collaboration between the Federal government and the Regions and the Communities. Therefore, efforts will focus on this collaboration in order to raise the country's efficiency, all the while respecting the competences of every level of government. Both on the (inter)federal level and on the level of the Regions and the Communities, preparations were made to ensure a smooth transfer of competences.</p>	
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2016 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average (capital region - highest – lowest): Brussels 200% - Antwerpen 139% - Prov. Luxemburg 75%</p>	Eurostat, 2018



Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<b><i>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</i></b>		<b>6</b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	Cross-cutting references. Annexes with the contributions of the regions deal with the aspect in detail.	2
Impact / Coverage	Cross-cutting references. Annexed tables detail the estimated impacts of the measures (qualitative and/or quantitative) by Region.	2
Specific policies	Cross-cutting references. Due to the strong role of the Regions in Belgium, all policy aspects show specific policies implemented by the Regions. In addition, a dedicated chapter deals with ESIF.	2
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b>9</b>
Preparation of the NRP	Contributions of the regions are an integral part of the NRP.	2
Implementation of the NRP	Due to the strong role of the Regions in Belgium, all policy aspects are dealt with from a national point of view as well as a point of view of each Region. The policy fields where the role of the regions is explicitly mentioned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fiscal Policy</li> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Refugees</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> <li>▪</li> </ul>	2
Evaluation of the NRP	National government and LRAs report on the structural reforms implemented for the 2016 CSR. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public Sector Reform</li> <li>▪</li> </ul>	1
Europe 2020	Due to the strong role of the Regions in Belgium, all policy aspects are dealt with from a national point of view as well as a point of view of each Region. In addition, Annexes detail the contribution of each Region. The policy fields where the role of the regions is explicitly mentioned:	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation)</li> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Energy Efficiency</li> <li>▪ Environment/Climate Measures</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> </ul>	
European Pillar of Social Rights	The European Pillar of Social Rights is explicitly mentioned in connection with the LRAs, also the regional measures regarding the employment.	2
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investment</i></b>		<b>6</b>
Territorial perspective	See below under "Related policies"	2
Role of LRAs	See below under "Related policies"	2
Related policies	<p>Due to the strong role of the Regions in Belgium, all policy aspects are dealt with from a national point of view as well as a point of view of each Region. Measures that are explicitly mentioned are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> <li>▪ Regional development: Stratégies régionales de spécialisation intelligente</li> <li>▪ ESIF</li> </ul>	2
<b><i>d) Institutional capacity</i></b>		<b>6</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	See below under Institutional capacity-building.	2
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	See below under Institutional capacity-building.	2
Institutional capacity-building	Measures to simplify <u>administration</u> including LRA are listed: reform of corporate taxes, licensing of retail trade: harmonisation of environmental permits, one-stop shops, simplification of categorisation of businesses. The efficiency of the measures is systematically evaluated.	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>e) Partnership and MLG</i>		<b>6</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	The respective competencies of the federal government and of the regions are detailed in all sections of the document	2
Cooperation models	Examples include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ National Pact for the Strategic Investments, especially in transport, digital infrastructure, education, health care</li> <li>▪ Inter federal Energy Pact</li> <li>▪ Cooperation agreement concerning the creation of the free zones between the Federal Government and Wallonia</li> <li>▪ Cooperation within the stipulated National Council for the Productivity</li> </ul>	2
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	Cross-cutting references in the Annexes with the contributions of the social partners.	2

### 5.3 Country Fiche – BG Bulgaria

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Basic features of the administrative system	The territory of the Republic of Bulgaria is divided into provinces and municipalities. Bulgaria is currently composed of two NUTS-1 Regions, six planning NUTS-2 level Regions, 28 Districts and 264 Municipalities.	National Reform Programme for Bulgaria, 2015 Radzyner, A. & al. (2014).
Regions and their role	<p>Administrative Districts (oblasti) also known as ‘lower-level Regions’ are devolved divisions of the central Government and are not directly elected. Their role towards the local level mostly concerns control and supervision and coordination. The Municipality (obshtini) constitutes the only level at which self-government is exercised. Bulgaria is a highly centralised State, as the national Council of Ministers directly appoints district governors and all Districts are fully dependent on the State’s budget, whereas Municipalities are less dependent on the State’s budget. The competences of the local level include inter alia education, health and culture as well as public utilities and services such as waste and water management.</p> <p>In 2005, revenue of the sub-national public sector amounted to EUR 1.2 billion, representing 5.4% of national GDP and 13.1% of total public revenue. Sub-national governments’ revenue are derived from taxation (own-source and shared), grants, fees, assets management and extraordinary revenue. Municipalities’ revenue is composed of 40% of autonomous taxation, 34.3% of grants and 25.7% of others.</p> <p>Latest reforms referring to the municipal level include: financial equalization of municipalities to ensure minimal level of local services provided to the population. <a href="https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Bulgaria-Introduction.aspx">https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Bulgaria-Introduction.aspx</a></p>	<a href="https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Bulgaria-Introduction.aspx">https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Bulgaria-Introduction.aspx</a>
Regional disparities in the MS	Gradient in GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2016 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average (capital region - highest – lowest): Yugozapaden 78% - Yuzhen tsentralen 34% - Severozapaden 29%	Eurostat, 2018
<b>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</b>		<b>5</b>
Disparities, challenges and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employment</li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adult education</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Health Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Significant regional disparities in infant mortality rates</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Roma</li> <li>○ People with special needs</li> <li>○ Elderly</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Impact / Coverage	Tables with the measures planned at the end of each subchapter include columns on Expected effect and Output indicators, including regional effects when relevant.	1
Specific policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Young people</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Health Care</li> <li>▪ RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation)</li> </ul>	2
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b>2</b>
Preparation of the NRP	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Implementation of the NRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> </ul>	1
Evaluation of the NRP	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Europe 2020	Input from the regions mentioned in relation to the policy of investment promotion (jobs for qualified specialists in high tech industries).	1
European Pillar of Social Rights	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investments</i></b>		<b>3</b>
Territorial perspective	<p>The following obstacles to investment with a territorial background are mentioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reducing the barriers for seasonal employment and labour contracts in rural and remote areas</li> <li>▪ Low employment skills in specific regions;</li> </ul>	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Health disparities;</li> <li>▪ Innovation capacity.</li> </ul>	
Role of LRAs	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Related policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> <li>▪ Fiscal Policy</li> </ul>	2
<b>d) Institutional capacity</b>		<b>4</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	<p>The advantages of centralized procurement for contracting authorities are found to remain largely unused, especially at the local level.</p> <p>Limited capacity of municipalities, main providers of social services, has hindered the integration of employment and social services.</p>	1
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	<p>In response to the Council's CSR1 of 2016, the NRA is implementing seven projects under the EU Structural Reform Support Programme. They are aimed at improving fiscal control, risk management, collection, avoidance of double taxation, and customer service.</p> <p>General reference, no consistent description of the role of municipalities/regions.</p>	1
Institutional capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ Energy Efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Renewable Energy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2
<b>e) Partnership and MLG</b>		<b>2</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	Key areas of government intervention are: strategic planning and regional governance through enhanced capacity of the local authorities; promoting the development of towns and improving the integration of Bulgarian regions through integrated sustainable urban development	1
Cooperation models	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	<p>Mentioned engagement and partnership with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social partners, particularly in education policies;</li> <li>▪ Six regional waste management associations in municipalities are supporting greenhouse gas policies</li> </ul>	1

## 5.4 Country Fiche – CY Cyprus

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Basic features of the administrative system	<p>Cyprus has no regions – it is a unitary presidential representative Republic , i.e. the president is head of state and head of government.</p> <p><u>Local Authorities</u> There are two types of local authorities, Municipalities and Communities, which are governed by separate laws. In principle, Municipalities constitute the form of local government in urban and tourist centres while communities constitute the local structure in rural areas.</p> <p><u>District Administration</u> For the purpose of administration, Cyprus is divided into six districts. Each district is headed by a District Officer being the chief coordinator and liaison for the activities of all Ministries in the District and is accountable to the Ministry of Interior. The district Offices are not elected but are part of the civil service.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Cyprus, 2017</p> <p>Radzyner, A. &amp; al. (2014)</p>
Regions and their role	<p>Cyprus is in an ongoing process of administrative reform. The process includes several elements such as the so-called Horizontal Reform of the public administration, the reform of the local governments and the law on the governance of state-owned entities. As a significant support to the local level five District Clusters will be established being in charge of planning and building permits, water and waste managements.</p> <p>The afore mentioned fields point at major challenges for the local level in provision of basic amenities. A second major point is the introduction of unified local accounting and financial reporting systems. There will be also critical change in the role of the local government by the gradual decrease of the number of Municipalities from 30 to 22.</p>	Eurostat
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>N/A (due to the administrative set-up and size) GDP in PPS 2016 in NUTS-II Regions Average: 83%</p>	

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<b><i>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</i></b>		<b>3</b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	Disparities or coverage issues raised in these dimensions. Not identified as specifically territorial challenges, although this is implied. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Access to broadband services;</li> <li>▪ Improving support to SMEs;</li> <li>▪ Attracting investment;</li> <li>▪ Reform to tourism sector;</li> <li>▪ Access to equal healthcare facilities;</li> <li>▪ Provision of accessible and affordable social care programmes.</li> </ul>	1
Impact / Coverage	<i>Not mentioned in the document.</i>	0
Specific policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Digital Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> <li>▪ Spatial Planning/Regional Development</li> <li>▪ Health Care</li> <li>▪ Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “one-stop-shops”</li> <li>○ e-health platform</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b>5</b>
Preparation of the NRP	LRAs were consulted during the preparation of the NRP	2
Implementation of the NRP	Role of municipalities in various policy delivery is described – see section a) specific policies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Digital Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> <li>▪ Spatial Planning/Regional Development</li> <li>▪ Health Care</li> <li>▪ Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “one-stop-shops”</li> <li>○ e-health platform</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2



<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Evaluation / Assessment</b>	<b>Source / Scoring</b>
Evaluation of the NRP	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Europe 2020	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
European Pillar of Social Rights	EPSR is not explicitly mentioned in the documents  Policy measures in line with the principles of EPSR and including LRAs are mentioned.	1
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investments</i></b>		<b>4</b>
Territorial perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inefficiency of local government process, see section on administrative capacity below.</li> </ul> See section a) for further categories of obstacle.	1
Role of LRAs	Upgrading of local administrative capacities at municipality level.  Description of need to build capacity of local administrators and processes.	1
Related policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Health Care</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> <li>▪ Public Sector Reform</li> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ Fiscal Policy</li> <li>▪ Digital Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Spatial Planning/Regional Development</li> </ul> See sections a and d.	2
<b><i>d) Institutional capacity</i></b>		<b>6</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP	Introduced a number of reforms to modernise the Public Administration, relating to civil servant mobility, the evaluation procedures for promotion, the appraisal system for civil servants, the functioning of the Public Service Commission and	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
and the EU 2020 pathway	<p>the containment of the wage bill.  Number of Municipalities will be reduces from 30 to 22 in the next three years, plus a roadmap for the implementation of Local Government Reform.  Citizen Service Centres (CSCs) have been established, with the aim of providing multiple services at one contact point. 8 are currently operational, with 5 more being set up in the period 2018-2020.</p> <p>P. 6 – Chapter on “Local Government Reform”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public Sector Reform</li> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ Fiscal Policy</li> </ul>	
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	<p>Local Government Reform has been introduced, aimed at making the issuing of building permits and certificates more efficient, closing gaps in local Government financial reporting through establishing a common accounting and reporting framework. 5 district clusters established that will be responsible for planning and building permits, water and sewage boards and waste management. At the local level, clusters for specific services will be established between local authorities for garbage collection, technical services etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public Sector Reform</li> <li>▪ Administration</li> </ul>	2
Institutional capacity-building	<p>Department of Labour introducing reforms for improving efficiency in service provision and Public Employment Services. Includes a training programme and recruitment of new Employment Counsellors.  Fully documented plan for reforming the Cyprus PES has been developed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ Employment</li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>e) Partnership and MLG</i>		<b>5</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	<p>Local administrative levels (ministries and municipalities/communities) are being reformed, to help with delivering the investments and achieving the targets of the NRP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public Sector Reform</li> </ul>	2
Cooperation models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Childcare</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> </ul> <p>Commercialisation and privatisation strategies for specific sites – see territorial dimensions and disparities above.</p>	2
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	<p>Partnerships with other EU institutions and MS, private sector and social partners to achieve the NRP targets.</p> <p>Some descriptions of wider partnerships.</p> <p>See above under cooperation models.</p>	1

## 5.5 Country Fiche – CZ Czech Republic

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Basic features of the administrative system	Czech Republic has undergone a decentralisation process which is ongoing since 2001. The <a href="#">Czech Republic</a> consists of thirteen regions ( <a href="#">kraje</a> ) and one <a href="#">capital city</a> (hlavní město) with regional status since 1 January 2000. The older <a href="#">seventy-three districts</a> (okresy, singular okres) still exist in terms of state administration offices being in charge of a limited number of key tasks such as the judicial system.	National Reform Programme for the Czech Republic, 2018 Radzyner, A. & al. (2014)
Regions and their role	The Czech regions have competences in education, transportation, health which are determinants and pre-conditions for private investment. Next to it the kraj have also competencies in planning, nature protection and tourism development etc. Local governments are in charge of kindergartens, primary schools, roads, water and waste management. Czech Republic is marked by a high number of municipalities thereof 80% with less than 1,000 inhabitants which poses a general challenge in terms of maintaining adequate level of services in many fields – in particular in education but also in terms of basic public amenities such as water and waste management.	
Regional disparities in the MS	Gradient in GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2016 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average  (capital region - highest – lowest):  Prague 182% - Jihovýchod 81% - Severozápad 63%	Eurostat, 2018

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<b><i>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</i></b>		<b>3</b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	<u>Regional development:</u> In the context of investment policies with the aim of compensation of regional differences, the following regions are mentioned as of special focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Moravian-Silesian</li> <li>▪ Ústí nad Labem</li> <li>▪ Karlovy Vary</li> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> </ul> The last two are also targeted by projects called Guarantees for young people	1
Impact / Coverage	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Specific policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Housing</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Spatial Planning/Regional Development</li> </ul>	2
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b>3</b>
Preparation of the NRP	LRAs are not mentioned in this context.	0
Implementation of the NRP	The role of LRAs in the NRP is mentioned for the following specific areas: <u>Social inclusion:</u> Integration of foreign nationals: Ministry of the Interior supports projects run by the municipalities in cooperation with NGOs as well as regional Centres for integration of foreigners which are also responsible for providing information to foreigners, general public and public servants. <u>Housing:</u> LRAs shall obtain subsidies within the Housing Concept with the aim to provide minimum housing standards. (see a) specific policies). <u>Climate measures:</u> Air protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ abatement of emissions from industrial sources and the replacement of obsolete combustion equipment running on solid fuels in households - funded from Operational Programme Environment</li> <li>▪ introduction of low-emission zones and support for staffing at municipalities and regions to implement programmes for air quality improvement - funded</li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<p>from National Environment Programme.</p> <p>In the context of <u>Energy efficiency in transport</u> CZK 100 million has been allocated to support the purchase of alternatively powered vehicles for municipalities and regions and their organisations.</p>	
Evaluation of the NRP	LRAs are not mentioned in this context.	0
Europe 2020	The role of LRAs is not mentioned in this context.	0
European Pillar of Social Rights	<p>EPSR is not explicitly mentioned in the documents</p> <p>Policy measures in line with the principles of EPSR and including LRAs are mentioned.</p>	1
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investments</i></b>		<b>3</b>
Territorial perspective	<p>There is no system of fiscal equalisation in the Czech republic. Investment needs are mentioned in connection to territorial disparities - see a).</p> <p>Regional offices of the CzechInvest agency work together with representatives of local governments, schools and other regional institutions in search of opportunities for the development of the business environment of the region.</p>	1
Role of LRAs	The NRP does not describe the financial situation of LRAs with regard to investment.	0
Related policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>European Funds</u>: regional offices of the CzechInvest Agency provide support for the local level to gain assistance from ESIF</li> <li>▪ <u>Housing</u>: as mentioned in a) specific policies LRAs can apply for loans for construction of social housing within the Integrated Regional Operational Programme</li> <li>▪ <u>Employment</u>: Operational Programme Employment targets deprived areas by the project guarantees for young people</li> <li>▪ <u>Climate measures</u>: Purchase of alternatively fuelled vehicles for municipalities will be funded from the Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovation for Competitiveness</li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<b>d) Institutional capacity</b>		<b>3</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	Data Collection Optimisation Methodology for ministries and other central bodies of state administration shall ensure optimisation of the system for the collection of data in public administration, minimising the burden faced by data providers - in particular municipalities and regions.	1
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	There is no mention of administrative capacities of LRAs in the context of investment.	0
Institutional capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> </ul>	2
<b>e) Partnership and MLG</b>		<b>3</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	Briefly mentioned in the context of family support policies.	1
Cooperation models	A systemic project of the Ministry of Labour and social affairs called Coordination of Measures to Support the Reconciliation of Work and Family Life at Regional Level sets out to improve the coordination of national and regional family support policies via a network of regional advisers and the operation of national and regional platforms (see d) institutional capacity building)	1
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	<u>Vocational education and training (VET)</u> : There are efforts to enhance dual education - as of September 2018, secondary school head teachers will be required, as part of the emphasis on cooperation between secondary schools and the professional field, to make efforts to collaborate with employers in order to achieve the objectives of secondary education, including preparation for an occupation or work. It is up to head teachers to select employees appropriate for cooperation themselves. Head teachers may set up an advisory body of employers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education</li> </ul>	1

## 5.6 Country Fiche – DE Germany

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Basic features of the administrative system	<p>The Federal Republic of Germany is made up of sixteen federal states, known as Bundesländer. Since Germany has a federal constitution, the constituent states retain a measure of sovereignty. With an emphasis on geographical conditions, Berlin and Hamburg are frequently called Stadtstaaten (city-states), as is the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, which in fact includes the cities of Bremen and Bremerhaven. The remaining 13 states are called Flächenländer.</p> <p>Germany is a federal state with an integrated system with a dominant role of domestic policy.</p> <p>At local government, two distinct levels exist: that of the Landkreis (rural district) and the municipal level (Gemeinde - local government). In Germany the implementation of the policies is largely performed by the Länder as part of multi-annual funding programmes. A total of 48 funding programmes are being put in place, focussing on specific regional and sectoral issues.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Germany, 2018</p> <p>Radzyner, A. &amp; al. (2014)</p>
Regions and their role	<p>An elaborate system of fiscal equalisation safeguards that the local level is largely able to maintain key public amenities. Major development issues are organised as so-called Gemeinschaftsaufgaben between national (Bund), Länder (NUTS 1) and the local level, i.e. the tasks are financed jointly by the three tiers of government. Municipalities trapped in a vicious cycle of aging and shrinking population are found mainly in so-called Eastern Germany, i.e. parts of the new Länder which formerly belonged to GDR.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Germany, 2018</p>
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2016 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average</p> <p>(capital region - highest – lowest):            Berlin 118% - Hamburg 200% - Mecklenburg-Vorpommern 84%</p>	<p>Eurostat, 2018</p>



Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</i>		<b>6</b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	<p>The overall economic development of Germany is very positive. Unemployment has sunk further to 5.7% in 2017. There are, however, large differences between the regions. The structurally weak and rural regions have significantly higher <b>unemployment rates</b> than the prosperous regions. At the same time, employers have difficulties filling vacancies with qualified staff due to low birth cohorts, high rates of school dropouts without qualifications and migration of people with higher qualifications (brain drain).</p> <p>Further challenges are mentioned in the following fields:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Structural change</b></li> <li>▪ Strong <b>increase in renting and real estate prices</b> in fast-growing cities and agglomerations</li> <li>▪ <b>Deficiencies in broadband connectivity, technology transfer and innovation</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Energy shortages</b></li> </ul> <p>Due to the <b>high influx of refugees</b> into Germany in the last years, the regions have been under considerable pressure to accommodate and integrate them. The government intends “to secure the continued funding of the ongoing measures to relieve the burden of refugee costs on the Länder and local authorities (annual block grant for integration, accommodation costs, unaccompanied refugee minors) with a total of a further €8bn over the years through to 2021 and – where necessary – work together to restructure it more efficiently. We want to ensure by means of targeted programme design that federal funds provided to other regional government entities for specific purposes such as social housing are used in full for those purposes”. German Stability Programme, 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Digital Infrastructure</li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Housing</li> <li>○ Refugees</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Energy Infrastructure</li> </ul>	
Impact / Coverage	<p>Annexed tables (I and II) with dedicated columns detailing impacts of the measures, including regional impacts. Table I lists the measures to tackle the overall economic challenges. Table II lists the measures to achieve the national targets of the Europe 2020 strategy.</p> <p>The tables explicitly state the expected impacts and mention the territorial impacts.</p>	2
Specific policies	<p>Policy fields mentioned are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public investments at all levels</li> <li>▪ Strengthening private investments and competitiveness</li> <li>▪ Strengthening participation on the labour market</li> </ul> <p>(Table I: Measures to tackle the overall economic challenges)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> <li>▪ Employment</li> </ul>	2
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b>7</b>
Preparation of the NRP	<p>The NRP was prepared by the Federal Government under the leadership of the Federal Ministry for Economics and Energy in cooperation with the <i>Länder</i>. The drafts of the NRP were read and commented on by the <i>Länder</i> and their contributions used in the final document.</p>	2
Implementation of the NRP	<p>Given that Germany is a highly federalised state, the ESIF are implemented at regional level by the LRAs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cross-cutting references</li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
Evaluation of the NRP	Not mentioned. Only evaluations of specific measures and laws are mentioned.	0
Europe 2020	<p>The LRAs are involved in the implementation of the measures to achieve the Europe 2020 targets.</p> <p>(Table II: Measures to achieve the national targets of the Europe 2020 strategy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation)</li> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> <li>▪ Environment/Climate Measures</li> </ul>	2
European Pillar of Social Rights	The Social Pillar is mentioned in relation to the Europe 2020 targets. Germany has good scores overall and will address those issues where it is not so good (part-time work of women and especially mothers, gender pay gap). The government rejects the proposal to include health and care in the European Semester. Policy measures in line with the principles of EPSR and including LRAs are mentioned.	1
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investments</i></b>		<b>6</b>
Territorial perspective	<p>Structurally weak regions suffer from higher unemployment rates and lower levels of education and vocational qualification among the workforce. They therefore have larger recruitment problems with 60% of employers in a representative survey of 26,000 enterprises saying that the lack of qualified workers was their main business risk.</p> <p>As the majority of public investments in Germany are carried out by the <i>Länder</i> and municipalities, further obstacles to investment include the inefficient planning and approval processes for investments in enterprises and infrastructure.</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
Role of LRAs	The <i>Länder</i> are active partners in the development of policy to tackle the obstacles. They also take the initiative for measures independently of the <i>Bund</i> .	2
Related policies	<p>The policy measures are developed and carried out jointly between the <i>Bund</i> and the <i>Länder</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> <li>▪ Fiscal Policy</li> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> <li>▪ Education</li> </ul>	2
<b>d) Institutional capacity</b>		<b>4</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	Federal states require national register on company fraud to facilitate decentral public procurement.	1
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	See below under Institutional capacity building.	1
Institutional capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> <li>▪ Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improvement of e-government</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> </ul>	2
<b>e) Partnership and MLG</b>		<b>6</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	<p><i>Bund-Länder</i> cooperation and coordination is consistently mentioned throughout the document.</p> <p>An elaborate system of fiscal equalisation between the levels of government exists. Specifically mentioned are</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ financial support to federal states and municipalities from the national level, especially concerning social payments, childcare, refugees and broadband infrastructure</li> <li>▪ reform of the system of fiscal equalisation</li> <li>▪ reform of municipal taxes (property tax, trade tax)</li> </ul>	
Cooperation models	<p><i>Bund-Länder</i> cooperation and coordination is consistently mentioned throughout the document.</p> <p>Examples include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ administration of motorways</li> <li>▪ local employment projects</li> <li>▪ innovation “hubs”</li> </ul>	2
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	<p>The social partners and other stakeholders are mentioned, in particular in relation to the achievement of the Europe 2020 targets.</p> <p>Initiatives including the social partners mentioned in the document concern the policy fields of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ industrial innovation</li> <li>▪ employment of refugees</li> <li>▪ working conditions</li> <li>▪ education and training</li> </ul>	2

## 5.7 Country Fiche – DK Denmark

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Basic features of the administrative system	<p>Denmark is a federate state which has a strong central government but its regions do have a certain degree of autonomy. Denmark is divided into five administrative regions. Eleven <a href="#">provinces</a> serve mainly statistical purposes. Regions are divided into provinces except for North Jutland (the region equals the province). The Capital Region is divided into four provinces, of which the <a href="#">Baltic Sea</a> island <a href="#">Bornholm</a> comprises one province. The Greater Copenhagen metropolitan area consists of the other three provinces in the Capital Region together with the province Eastern Zealand.</p> <p>The regions are further subdivided into <a href="#">98 municipalities</a> (kommuner). The regions were created on 1 January 2007 to replace the sixteen former counties. At the same time, smaller municipalities were merged into larger units, reducing the number from 270 to 98.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Denmark, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. &amp; al. (2014)</p> <p><a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denmark">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denmark</a></p>
Regions and their role	<p>The areas of responsibility for the regional councils are the national health service, social services and regional development. Unlike the former counties they replaced, the regions are not allowed to levy taxes and the health service is partly financed by a national health care contribution until 2018.</p> <p>Most municipalities have a population of at least 20,000 to give them financial and professional sustainability, although a few exceptions were made to this rule. In addition to Denmark proper the state comprises two autonomous constituent countries in the North Atlantic Ocean: Greenland and the Faroe Islands</p>	
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2016 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average</p> <p>(capital region – highest outside capital region – lowest): Hovedstaden 159% - Syddanmark 113% - Sjælland 87%</p>	Eurostat, 2018

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<b><i>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</i></b>		<b>3</b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Impact / Coverage	Implicit mention, e.g. in the case of the Modernised Planning Act, the utilities strategy launched in September 2016, the taxi regulation in January 2018).	1
Specific policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> <li>▪ RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation)</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Housing</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Higher Education</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b>9</b>
Preparation of the NRP	<p>Contact Committee for the Europe 2020 strategy including LRAs. The committee was established in 2001 in connection with the adoption of the Lisbon strategy and consists of approximately 30 regional and local authorities and a wide range of organizations with an interest in the European growth and employment agenda. The draft of the Danish National Reform Programme 2018 was sent for consultation to the Contact Committee and discussed at a meeting of the Committee on 6 March 2018.</p> <p>The Committee members subsequently had the opportunity to submit comments in writing. To the extent possible, the comments submitted by the Committee are reflected and incorporated in the National Reform Programme.</p>	2
Implementation of the NRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Refugees - Integration of refugees into the labour market and the nomination of employment ambassadors to help match refugees and vacancies</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Primary and lower secondary education</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> </ul>	
Evaluation of the NRP	The Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs will monitor the effects of the new regulations with an annual report to the parliament and an overall evaluation of the Planning Act in 2020. Evaluation of former initiatives in the R&D sector mentioning regional disparities.	2
Europe 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> <li>▪ RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation)</li> </ul>	2
European Pillar of Social Rights	<p>EPSR is not explicitly mentioned in the documents.</p> <p>Policy measures in line with the principles of EPSR and including LRAs are mentioned.</p>	1
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investments</i></b>		<b><i>1</i></b>
Territorial perspective	In the coming years, firms are expected to increase their investments. This will in itself reduce the surplus on the balance of payments. One of the potential obstacles to investments is the predicted lack of skilled labour.	1
Role of LRAs	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Related policies	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
<b><i>d) Institutional capacity</i></b>		<b><i>3</i></b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ Spatial Planning/Regional Development</li> </ul>	1



Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration</li> </ul>	1
Institutional capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education</li> </ul>	1
<b><i>e) Partnership and MLG</i></b>		<b>4</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	Denmark has an established procedure for the Parliament's involvement in the Danish and European growth and employment agenda. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employment</li> </ul>	2
Cooperation models	The Government and the Danish Parliament have agreed on an extended involvement of the European Affairs Committee and the Finance Committee in relation to discussions on the European Semester and the National Reform Programme.	1
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> </ul>	1

## 5.8 Country Fiche – EE Estonia

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<b>Introductory information</b>		
Basic features of the administrative system	<p>Estonia is divided into fifteen counties (Maakonnad), which are the administrative subdivisions of the country.</p> <p>A <a href="#"><i>maakond</i></a> (county) is the biggest administrative subdivision. Each county is further divided into municipalities (<i>omavalitsus</i>), which is also the smallest administrative subdivision of Estonia. There are two types of municipalities: an urban municipality – <i>linn</i> (town), and a rural municipality – <i>vald</i> (parish). There is no other status distinction between these units of self-government. As of March 2013, there are a total of 226 municipalities in Estonia, 33 of them being urban and 193 rural.</p> <p>Municipalities range in size from Tallinn with 400,000 inhabitants to Ruhnu with as few as 60. As over two-thirds of the municipalities have a population of under 3,000, many of them have entered cooperation in providing services and carrying out administrative functions. There have also been calls for an administrative reform to merge smaller municipalities together.</p>	National Reform Programme for Estonia, 2017 Radzyner, A. & al. (2014) <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estonia">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estonia</a>
Regions and their role	<p>In general the local self-governments encounter difficulties in provision of services and amenities. Infrastructure investment as part of ESIF-programmes is one of the key funding sources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The dominance of rural municipalities in Estonia points at a general challenge: economic development, employment and entrepreneurial activity outside of economic hotspots - i.e. the counties of Harjumaa and Tartumaa - is lagging</li> </ul> <p>Particularly challenging situation is found in the the North-East (Ida-Viru county I n particular in its cities) and the South East, i.e. the counties border Russia.</p>	
Regional disparities in the MS	N/A (due to the administrative set-up and size) GDP in PPS 2016 in NUTS-II Regions Average: 75%	Eurostat, 2018
<b>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</b>		<b>3</b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> </ul>	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration</li> </ul>	
Impact / Coverage	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Specific policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Secondary Schools</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Health Care</li> <li>▪ Energy Efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Local heating systems</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Supply of construction minerals</li> </ul> <p><u>Ida-Viru County Program:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Spatial Planning/Regional Planning</li> <li>▪ Employment</li> </ul> <p><u>Pilot project in different regions of Estonia in 2018–2019:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ People with special needs</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Education</li> </ul>	2
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b>5</b>
Preparation of the NRP	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Implementation of the NRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Prevention dropouts – „<i>Youth Guarantee support system</i>”, “<i>Youth Prop Up</i>” programme</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Employment (especially young people)</li> <li>▪ Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increasing efficiency of provision of services</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Health Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community-based solutions; cooperation between local governments and voluntary networks</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ People with special needs</li> <li>○ Social Services</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Childcare</li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Spatial Planning/Regional Development</li> <li>▪ Energy Efficiency</li> <li>▪ Environment</li> <li>▪ Public Sector Reform               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Social Policy</li> <li>○ Financial autonomy of local authorities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Evaluation of the NRP	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Europe 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ See above under “Implementation of the NRP”; the document does not differentiate between CSR and Europe 2020 targets</li> </ul>	2
European Pillar of Social Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ EPSR is not explicitly mentioned in the documents</li> <li>▪ Policy measures in line with the principles of EPSR and including LRAs are mentioned.</li> </ul>	1
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investments</i></b>		<b>3</b>
Territorial perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SME/Business Support               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Creating value propositions for large investors</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1
Role of LRAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public Sector Reform               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Financial autonomy of LRAs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1
Related policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SME/Business Support               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Support of large-scale investments in order to improve local economy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1
<b><i>d) Institutional capacity</i></b>		<b>3</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Prevention dropouts – „Youth Guarantee support system”, “Youth Prop Up” programme</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Administration               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increasing efficiency of provision of services</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Institutional capacity-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public Sector Reform</li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ More efficient services and e-solutions</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Social Services</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Spatial Planning/Regional Development</li> </ul>	
<b><i>e) Partnership and MLG</i></b>		<b>5</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employment (especially young people)</li> <li>▪ Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increasing efficiency of provision of services</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Health Care</li> <li>▪ Supply of construction minerals</li> <li>▪ Fiscal Policy</li> </ul>	2
Cooperation models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Social Services</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Energy Efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Local heating systems</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Health Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community-based solutions; cooperation between local governments and voluntary networks</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ People with special needs</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Health Care</li> </ul>	2

## 5.9 Country Fiche – ES Spain

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Basic features of the administrative system	<p>Spain is not a federation but a highly decentralized unitary state that has asymmetrically devolved power to the so-called autonomous communities, which in turn exercise their right to self-government within the limits set forth in the constitution and their autonomous statutes.</p> <p>There are 17 autonomous communities and two autonomous cities that are collectively known as "autonomies". This unique framework of territorial administration is known as the "State of Autonomies". The autonomous communities are governed according to the constitution and their laws known as Statutes of Autonomy, which comprise a wide range of competences. Since devolution was intended to be asymmetrical in nature, the scope of competences varies for each community.</p> <p>Autonomous communities are subdivided into provinces. In turn, municipalities integrate provinces. The existence of both the provinces and the municipalities is guaranteed and protected by the constitution. Municipalities are granted autonomy to manage their internal affairs, and provinces are the territorial divisions designed to carry out the activities of the State</p>	National Reform Programme for Spain, 2018 Radzyner, A. & al. (2014) <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spain">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spain</a>
Regions and their role	Competences can be divided into three groups: exclusive to the central state or central government, shared competences, and devolved competences exclusive to the communities. Article 149 of the Constitution states the powers exclusive to the central government: international relations, defence, administration of justice, commercial, criminal, civil, and labour legislation, customs, general finances and state debt, public health, basic legislation, and general coordination. All autonomous communities have the power to manage their own finances and are responsible for the administration of education—school and universities—health and social services and cultural and urban development.	

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	Only two communities—the Basque Country and Navarre—have full fiscal autonomy. Aside of fiscal autonomy, the nationalities—Andalusia, the Basque Country, Catalonia, and Galicia—were devolved more powers than the rest of the communities.	
Regional disparities in the MS	Gradient in GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2016 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average (capital region - highest – lowest): Comunidad de Madrid 125% - País Vasco 121% Extremadura 63%	Eurostat, 2018
<b><i>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</i></b>		<b>5</b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	Territorial disparities are mentioned in several policy fields as due to the autonomy, the objective of offering the same quality of services in all regions is an important topic, e.g. the rules and procedures of the Minimum income schemes ( <u>social inclusion</u> ).	2
Impact / Coverage	The tables in the Annex include a column on the impacts, mentioning LRAs.	1
Specific policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Spatial Planning/Regional Development</li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Energy Efficiency</li> </ul>	2
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b>7</b>
Preparation of the NRP	Several Autonomous communities have contributed to the preparation of the NRP with presenting list of measures they want to implement.	2
Implementation of the NRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fiscal Policy</li> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation)</li> <li>▪ SME/Business support</li> </ul>	2

<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Evaluation / Assessment</b>	<b>Source / Scoring</b>
Evaluation of the NRP	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Europe 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> <li>▪ RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation)</li> <li>▪ Education</li> </ul>	2
European Pillar of Social Rights	<p>The EPSR is mentioned, but not further elaborated with regard to LRAs.</p> <p>Policy measures in line with the principles of EPSR and including LRAs are mentioned.</p>	1
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investment</i></b>		<b>5</b>
Territorial perspective	Administrative obstacles were removed by CCAAs (autonomous communities) with regard to growth and competitiveness.	1
Role of LRAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Health Care</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> </ul>	2
Related policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Health Care</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> </ul>	2
<b><i>d) Institutional capacity</i></b>		<b>4</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Digital Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Administration</li> </ul>	1
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Creation of the Spain Cluster with regard to industrial transformation</li> </ul>	1



Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
Institutional capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration</li> </ul>	2
<b><i>e) Partnership and MLG</i></b>		<b>4</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	The Conference of Regional Presidents is the highest level political body of multilateral cooperation between the Government of Spain and the autonomies. The financing of the Autonomous Communities shall be reformed.	2
Cooperation models	<u>Administration:</u> A contact point network is established between the CCAAs, the ministries and the national commission of market and competence (CNMC) where it is possible to report obstacles	1
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	Several policy fields include the participation of various actors in Spain.	1

## 5.10 Country Fiche – FI Finland

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Basic features of the administrative system	<p><a href="#">Finland</a> is divided into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 19 <a href="#">regions</a> (Finnish <i>maakunta</i>)</li> <li>▪ the regions are divided into 70 <a href="#">sub-regions</a> (Finnish <i>seutukunta</i>)</li> <li>▪ the sub-regions are divided into 320 <a href="#">municipalities</a> (Finnish <i>kunta</i>).</li> </ul> <p>There is an ongoing regional reform, in which in 2020 a larger number of services is being moved from municipal / central level to county level.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Finland, 2018</p> <p>Radzyner, A. &amp; al. (2014)</p>
Regions and their role	<p>Municipalities are responsible for providing their residents with statutory basic amenities and services. The State has the right to participate in decision-making on the provision of basic municipal services. The most important of these are social welfare and health, education and culture, the environment, and technical infrastructure.</p> <p>Finland is implementing a Local Government Reform. The purpose of the restructuring process is to create a sufficiently solid structural and financial basis for services that municipalities are responsible for, in order to secure high-quality welfare services in future equally in all parts of Finland. The process will have an impact on organizing local-government services, their funding and the division of labour between central and local government.</p> <p>A major pillar of the reform is the Establishment of 18 counties in Finland in order to safeguard adequate level of services in healthcare and social welfare, planning and building regulations, but also business promotion.</p> <p>See section a) for further description</p>	<p><a href="https://www.suomi.fi/suomifi/english/state_and_municipalities/municipalities_and_local_government/index.html">https://www.suomi.fi/suomifi/english/state_and_municipalities/municipalities_and_local_government/index.html</a></p>
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2016 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average (capital region - highest – lowest):</p> <p>Helsinki-Uusimaa 144% - Åland 131% - Pohjois- ja Itä-Suomi 90%</p>	<p>Eurostat, 2018</p>
<b>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</b>		<b>4</b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Need for measures to reduce skills and regional mismatches in the labour market</li> </ul>	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
Impact / Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establishment of 18 counties in Finland</li> <li>▪ Involvement of the stakeholders in the preparation of key reform projects will become more extensive after the legislative package has been approved and the county councils have been elected.</li> <li>▪ National steering of the future counties will be simulated in spring 2018 and the background information used in the test will include information on health and social service needs as well as estimates of cost trends.</li> <li>▪ The regional government reform will be accompanied by a reform of the employment and business services. Providing employment and business services will become the responsibility of the counties to be established from the start of 2020.</li> <li>▪ The aim of health and social services reform is to achieve savings of EUR 3 billion by the end of 2030</li> <li>▪ Regional development of the electricity market</li> </ul>	1
Specific policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Public sector reform</u>: Establishment of 18 counties, as well as governance transfer from the municipal to the county level. From 1 January 2020, the counties will be in charge of crucial public services, such as healthcare, social welfare, employment and business services, land-use management planning and building permits, etc.</li> <li>▪ <u>Administration</u>: Regional trials will be carried out in 2017 and 2018 and the aim in them is to create client-oriented operating models across the boundaries of administrative branches.</li> <li>▪ The Government plans to submit its proposal for legislation on <u>regional development</u> and growth services to Parliament in spring 2018</li> <li>▪ <u>Employment</u>: The Government has introduced measures to support regional mobility and commuting of unemployed jobseekers, including more extensive use of job offers and mobility allowance, targeted provision of information on economic support for mobility and more extensive application of the mobility allowance.</li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b>7</b>
Preparation of the NRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Regional Councils and municipal representatives are involved in preparing the governmental reform</li> <li>▪ Implicit mentioning that there have been consultations with stakeholders regarding the preparation of the NRP</li> </ul>	2
Implementation of the NRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ From 1 January 2020 the counties will be in charge of the regional governance, including <u>health</u> and <u>social inclusion</u>, see section a)</li> </ul>	2
Evaluation of the NRP	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Europe 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Energy Efficiency</li> <li>▪ SME/Business support</li> <li>▪ Environment/Climate Measures</li> <li>▪ RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation)</li> </ul>	2
European Pillar of Social Rights	<p>EPSR is not explicitly mentioned in the documents</p> <p>Policy measures in line with the principles of EPSR and including LRAs are mentioned.</p>	1
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investments</i></b>		<b>4</b>
Territorial perspective	Shortages of skilled workforce (labour bottlenecks) in certain regions and sectors.	1
Role of LRAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establishment of Public Growth Service - linking the public employment service with business services (potential employers) - should enhance local development and investments</li> <li>▪ The regional government reform will be accompanied by a reform of the employment and business services. Providing employment and business services will become the responsibility of the counties to be established from the start of 2020.</li> </ul>	2
Related policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Employment</u>: The Government has introduced measures to support regional mobility and commuting of unemployed jobseekers, including more extensive use of job offers and mobility allowance, targeted provision of information on economic support for mobility and more extensive application of the mobility allowance.</li> </ul>	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<b>d) Institutional capacity</b>		<b>4</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regional government reform under which Finland is divided into 18 counties.</li> <li>▪ The responsibility for providing e.g. health and social services will be transferred from more than 300 municipalities to 18 counties, which will provide a better basis for arranging the services.</li> </ul>	1
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establishment of Public Growth Service - linking the public employment service with business services (potential employers) - should enhance local development and investments</li> </ul>	1
Institutional capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Public sector reform</u>: Extensive reform of the Regional Government in Finland, which should build further the institutional capacity of the Finnish public administration</li> <li>▪ The regional government reform plays a key role in stabilizing Finland's public finances</li> </ul>	2
<b>e) Partnership and MLG</b>		<b>5</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regional government reform under which Finland is divided into 18 counties.</li> <li>▪ Stakeholders are involved in the preparation of key reform projects.</li> <li>▪ Involvement of the stakeholders will become more extensive after the legislative package has been approved and the county councils have been elected.</li> </ul>	2
Cooperation models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Climate</u>: Goal-oriented climate action in municipalities and regions will be strengthened by an annual subsidy of one million euros and national and regional climate policy interaction will be strengthened</li> <li>▪ <u>Education</u>: Central government transfers to local government of the funding for vocational education and training measures.</li> </ul>	1
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monitoring group on Transportation Services, with large involvement of many stakeholders, citizens, public officials, etc.</li> <li>▪ Health and social services reform involves social partners, regions, etc.</li> </ul>	2

## 5.11 Country Fiche – FR France

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Regions and their role	<p>The administrative divisions of France are concerned with the institutional and territorial organization of French territory. There are many administrative divisions, which may have political (<a href="#">local government</a>), electoral (districts), or administrative (decentralized services of the state) objectives.</p> <p>As of January 2016, the number of regions has been halved; 15 out of 12 new metropolitan areas, the Paris and Aix-Marseille-Provence areas have been in official existence since January 2016. Lastly, the Local Administration Reform Act (NOTRe) passed in 2015 provides for a new wave of intermunicipal mergers, reducing the number of councils by one-third by 2017.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As from 2015, creation of metropolitan area status and elimination of the intermunicipal bodies for the 13 conurbations concerned (on 1 January 2016 for Paris and Aix-Marseilles)</li> <li>▪ As of January 2016, the number of regions reduced from 22 to 13 to adapt the administrative boundaries to the economic geography with regions that are large enough to define their own local economic strategies</li> </ul> <p>New division of powers between local governments, with the abolishment of the clause de compétence générale (legal concept allowing LRAs to act in areas for which they are not responsible as of right) for départements and regions and transfer of powers from départements to regions</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for France, 2018</p> <p>Radzyner, A. &amp; al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European union, 2014.</p>
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2016 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average</p> <p>(capital region - highest – lowest): Ile de France 175% - Rhône-Alpes 103% - Languedoc-Rousillon 76 % - Reunion 70% - Mayotte 33%</p>	Eurostat, 2018

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
Role of the local and regional authorities	<p>An administrative reform has been launched in 2014 aiming at more efficient administration and in order to strengthen local and regional economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ set-up of the statute of metropolises in major agglomeration areas</li> </ul> <p>reduction of the number of regions from 22 to 13; transfer of competences from Departments to regions with the aim to strengthen growth poles</p>	
<b><i>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</i></b>		<b>5</b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	<p>In its initial statement the NRP – under the social agenda - refers to an increasing gap between advanced metropolitan regions and less developed regions. Territorial disparities and challenges are mentioned in the context of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Health Care</li> <li>▪ Digital Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ R Spatial Planning/Regional Development</li> </ul>	2
Impact / Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Housing</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Digital Infrastructure</li> </ul>	1
Specific policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Housing</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Energy Efficiency</li> <li>▪ Agriculture, Forestry &amp; Fishing</li> <li>▪ Spatial Planning/Regional Development</li> </ul> <p>As a sidestep Paris should strengthen its role as leading finance centre in continental Europe – i.a. by developing education facilities and legal expertise in this field (cf. NRP, p. 38)</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b>6</b>
Preparation of the NRP	The representations of the LRAs have been part of the consultation process which done in written in March 2018.	2
Implementation of the NRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation)</li> <li>▪ Employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Youth employment</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1
Evaluation of the NRP	<p>France – as part of the CSR is seeking to modernise its public services thus also evaluating the quality of public spending respectively public policies. This is an ongoing process since 2012; since 2017 the process has been reinforced as part of ‘Action Publique 2022’. The spending reviews cover policies at all levels i.e. including the local level (collectivité territoriales).</p> <p>The NRP also includes a comprehensive review of the steps taken in response to the CSR.</p>	2
Europe 2020	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
European Pillar of Social Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> <li>▪ Health Care</li> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Employment</li> </ul> <p>The EPSR is mentioned explicitly (cf. NRP, p. 57). In the section on the implementation of EU 2020 the position of FR related to the key indicators of the EPRS is included (cf. NRP, p. 89). However, LRA are not mentioned.</p> <p>Challenge 3 on a new social model, axis 4 is dedicated to the protection of vulnerable population strata.</p>	1
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investment</i></b>		<b>2</b>
Territorial perspective	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Role of LRAs	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0



<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Evaluation / Assessment</b>	<b>Source / Scoring</b>
Related policies	Comprehensive reform steps respectively policies have been implemented or started; key steps target the removal of obstacles to competitiveness and private investment.	2
<b>d) Institutional capacity</b>		<b>4</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	The NRP addresses specifically the role of LRAs and their human resource management as one of the levers to foster investment policies	1
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	The NRP addresses the reform of public service in order to strengthen its adaptability and effectiveness. As part of 'Action Publique 2022' comprehensive reviews address issues such as simplification and quality of services, staff development, territorial organisation of public services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public Sector Reform</li> </ul>	2
Institutional capacity-building	See above, public sector reform.	1
<b>e) Partnership and MLG</b>		<b>2</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	In occasional cases there are rather general references to coordination mechanisms between tiers of the administration. The Annex contains feedback of the LRA associations.	1
Cooperation models	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	The section on ESIF implementation includes examples of projects based on partnerships.	1

## 5.12 Country Fiche – HR Croatia

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Basic features of the administrative system	<p>Croatia has a two-tier subnational government system; municipalities and cities at the local level and counties at the regional level (<u>Croatian: županije</u>). There are 20 <u>counties</u> and the <u>capital city</u> of <u>Zagreb</u>, which has the authority and legal status of both a county and a <u>city</u> (separate from the surrounding <u>Zagreb County</u>). The counties are subdivided into 127 cities and 429 (mostly rural) <u>municipalities</u>.</p> <p>The counties perform tasks (at regional level) related to: education, health, spatial and urban planning, economic development, transport and transport infrastructure. Cities and municipalities took responsibility for accommodating the immediate needs of their residents, such as housing and community amenities, municipal services, culture, sports, protection and promotion of the natural environment, fire-fighting, and local transport, as well as partially child, social and primary health care, as well as primary education.</p>	<a href="http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/csr2016/cr2016_croatia_en.pdf">http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/csr2016/cr2016_croatia_en.pdf</a>
Regions and their role	<p>Croatia has one of the lowest numbers of inhabitants per Local Government Unit (LGU) in the EU with one of the largest concentration of citizens in the capital city. More than half of municipalities have fewer than 3,000 citizens. There have been several initiatives since 2001 to build up local fiscal and management capacity. However, the budgets of LGUs cover only a small fraction of general government spending.</p> <p>All municipalities and cities except the very largest have the same responsibilities for providing public services regardless of their development level, fiscal capacity, or size. Cities that have more than 35,000 inhabitants or that are county seats are exceptions because they can also perform tasks otherwise allocated to counties. Although counties have been given wide responsibilities for public services, they often have much less fiscal capacity than</p>	World Bank, Croatia Public Finance Review, 2014.

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	cities. A major challenge is the inequality in service provision as small municipalities and cities with little fiscal capacity cannot give their residents the same kind and quality of public service as larger cities.	
Regional disparities in the MS	Gradient in GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2016 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average  (capital region - highest – lowest): Kontinentalna Hrvatska 61% - Jadranska Hrvatska 57%	Eurostat, 2018
<b>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</b>		<b>4</b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	The deprived areas Slavonija, Baranja and Srijem shall be targeted by intense ESIF funding to contribute to the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, better transport links, the recovery of agricultural production, employment growth and demographic revitalization.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Agriculture, Forestry &amp; Fishing</li> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ Tourism</li> </ul>	1
Impact / Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> <li>▪ Marine border management</li> </ul>	1
Specific policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Agriculture, Forestry &amp; Fishing</li> <li>▪ Health Care</li> </ul>	
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b>3</b>
Preparation of the NRP	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Implementation of the NRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ Fiscal Policy</li> <li>▪ Energy efficiency</li> <li>▪ Marine border management</li> </ul>	1
Evaluation of the NRP	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Europe 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> </ul>	1
European Pillar of Social Rights	The EPSR is not explicitly mentioned in the NRP. Measures concerning social inclusion are mentioned in the context of EU 2020.	1
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investment</i></b>		<b>3</b>
Territorial perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fiscal Policy</li> </ul>	1
Role of LRAs	<p>The Law on financing of local and regional self governing units was issued on 01.01.2018 according to which income taxes flow in the LRA budget in full extent (fiscal equalisation). Financing of decentralized functions is regulated by this law. For the distribution of the income from income taxes see the reference text.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Inland waterways</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1
Related policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Agriculture, Forestry &amp; Fishing</li> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Employment</li> </ul>	1
<b><i>d) Institutional capacity</i></b>		<b>4</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> </ul>	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	There is mention of training staff to be able to work with the ESSPROS methodology. The Ministry of Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy has established a network of county social security coordinators to coordinate between representatives of towns and municipalities in the counties regarding the implementation of the social protection program and the collection of social benefits data.	
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	See “institutional capacity building”.	1
Institutional capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fiscal Policy</li> <li>▪ Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fighting corruption</li> <li>○ Protection on whistleblowers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2
<b><i>e) Partnership and MLG</i></b>		<b>2</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	<p>There is a Development Agreement planned. The aim is to align the priorities of the state and county level development, to identify strategic regional development projects and to identify the financial resources for the implementation of the Priorities and the Strategic Projects of the Development Agreement (The focus is on aligning the education system with the needs of the economy, internationalization of business and preparation of strategic regional development projects that will contribute to improving the position in global value chains)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ SME/Business support</li> <li>▪ Fiscal Policy</li> <li>▪ Administration</li> </ul>	2
Cooperation models	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0

## 5.13 Country Fiche – HU Hungary

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Basic features of the administrative system	<p>Administratively, Hungary is divided into 19 <a href="#">counties</a> (megye, plural megyék). In addition, the <a href="#">capital</a> (főváros), <a href="#">Budapest</a>, is independent of any county government. The counties and the capital are the 20 <a href="#">NUTS-3</a> units of Hungary. The counties are further subdivided into 174 districts (járások) as of January 1, 2015, which serve as divisions of state administration. 23 districts of the capital city of Budapest are both administrative and self-government units.</p> <p>The local level is composed of 3,152 municipalities.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Hungary, 2018</p> <p>Radzyner, A. &amp; al. (2014)</p>
Regions and their role	<p>In accordance with the Act on Local Government municipalities have to provide the basic amenities and services such as waste and water management, local roads, basic health care and education. Financing of social policies is an important factor in local budgets. The basic requirements have to be met; further tasks may be taken over provided the financial means can be safeguarded. Local budgets consist of local taxes plus shared revenues from national level. Generally speaking the municipalities encounter difficulties to finance infrastructural requirements. ESIF play a crucial role in local investment.</p> <p>The role of counties in terms of governance is quite restricted – their key purpose is to maintain public companies providing services which are respectively cannot be provided at the local level.</p>	
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2016 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average</p> <p>(capital region - highest – lowest): Közép-Magyarország 102% - Nyugat-Dunántúl 74% - Észak-Alföld 43%</p>	Eurostat, 2018

<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Evaluation / Assessment</b>	<b>Source / Scoring</b>
<b><i>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</i></b>		<b>2</b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Impact / Coverage	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Specific policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Disadvantaged students</li> <li>○ Roma</li> <li>○ Teacher training</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improvement of the situation of families with children in difficult conditions small regions</li> <li>○ Family-friendly institutions</li> <li>○ Integrated regional child programmes in disadvantaged regions</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Health Care</li> <li>▪ Childcare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Modernisation</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Spatial Planning/Regional Development</li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Energy Efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Renewable Energy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b>4</b>
Preparation of the NRP	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Implementation of the NRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> <li>▪ Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Anti-corruption programme</li> <li>○ Inter-institutional (G2G) data transfer throughout the entire country</li> <li>○ E-administration service</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2
Evaluation of the NRP	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
Europe 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Childcare               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ harmonisation of work-life balance; services providing daycare for children</li> <li>○ Nursery capacities</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Fiscal Policy</li> </ul>	1
European Pillar of Social Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ EPSR is not explicitly mentioned in the documents</li> <li>▪ Policy measures in line with the principles of EPSR and including LRAs are mentioned.</li> </ul>	1
<b>c) Obstacles to Investment</b>		<b>3</b>
Territorial perspective	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Role of LRAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation)</li> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> </ul>	1
Related policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SME/Business Support               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hostels for workers</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation)</li> </ul>	2
<b>d) Institutional capacity</b>		<b>2</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Institutional capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Anti-corruption programme</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2



Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Inter-institutional (G2G) data transfer throughout the entire country</li> <li>○ E-administration service</li> <li>○ Development of organisational integrity – awareness in relation to issues of professional ethics and the transfer of practical knowledge</li> <li>▪ Health Care</li> </ul>	
<b><i>e) Partnership and MLG</i></b>		<b>2</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SME/Business Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hostels for workers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1
Cooperation models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SME/Business Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hostels for workers</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Development of organisational integrity – awareness in relation to issues of professional ethics and the transfer of practical knowledge</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0

## 5.14 Country Fiche – IE Ireland

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Basic features of the administrative system	<p>There are 26 counties, 3 cities and 2 city/county entities that define areas of local government in the Republic. In general, Ireland is a unitary country. Consolidation of regional structures from eight regional authorities and two regional assemblies into three regional assemblies has been concluded. The new assemblies have enhanced powers, particularly in relation to spatial planning and economic development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A stronger role in economic development through the adoption of Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies, which will replace the regional planning guidelines.</li> <li>▪ Linking local economic development with regional and national planning through oversight of Local Economic and Community Plans</li> </ul>	<p>National Reform Programme for Ireland, 2018</p> <p>Radzyner, A. &amp; al. (2014).</p>
Regions and their role	<p>Local authorities do have a strong role in spatial and infrastructure planning, in housing development, local road networks and public amenities. Local Community Development Committees should develop, co-ordinate and implement a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.</p> <p>Three regional assemblies have replaced former eight regional authorities and two assemblies. The aim of the new assemblies is to co-ordinate, promote or support strategic planning and sustainable development and promote effectiveness in local government and public services.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/">http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/</a></p>
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2016 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average</p> <p>(capital region - highest – lowest): Southern and Eastern 217% - Border, Midland and Western 86%</p>	<p>Eurostat, 2018</p>

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<b><i>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</i></b>		<b>5</b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fiscal Policy</li> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Brexit</li> </ul>	1
Impact / Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation)</li> <li>▪ Environment/Climate Measures</li> <li>▪ Employment</li> </ul>	2
Specific policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> <li>▪ Housing</li> <li>▪ Spatial Planning/Regional Development</li> </ul>	2
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b>8</b>
Preparation of the NRP	The regional representatives have been included in the consultation process (NRP, p. 73).	2
Implementation of the NRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Spatial Planning/Regional Development</li> </ul>	2
Evaluation of the NRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employment</li> </ul>	1
Europe 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Employment</u>: The Action Plan for 2018 foresees the refresh and refocus of the Regional Action Plans through nine Regional Implementation Committees, involving key regional stakeholders that include the Enterprise Agencies, Local Authorities, Higher Education Institutes, LEOs (Local Employment Office), and ‘enterprise champions’ from the business community.</li> <li>▪ The Action Plan wants to create 200,000 additional jobs by 2020, including 135,000 outside Dublin;</li> <li>▪ <u>Business support</u>: <i>Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF) scheme</i> supports new collaborative and innovative initiatives that can make an impact on enterprise development in the region/across regions to build the distinctive capabilities to grow the regions.</li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>National Síolta Aistear Initiative</i></li> <li>▪ <u>Social inclusion/housing</u>: <i>Rebuilding Ireland – Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness</i> change in policy direction, increasing local authority building activity. The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government is working with Local Authorities and Approved Housing Bodies on issues such as land, resources, planning and design to support accelerated delivery.</li> <li>▪ <i>Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)</i></li> </ul>	
European Pillar of Social Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The NRP mentions the EPSR without relating it to LRAs.</li> <li>▪ Policy measures in line with the principles of EPSR and including LRAs are mentioned.</li> </ul>	1
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investments</i></b>		<b>3</b>
Territorial perspective	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Role of LRAs	The role of the LRAs is described in a number of related policies below. There are several initiatives where LRAs are explicitly mentioned.	1
Related policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ireland 2040: See above.</li> <li>▪ <u>Fiscal policy</u>: An additional capital expenditure allocation of €4.3 billion over 2018-2021 will be central to Ireland’s response to Brexit and will allow the State and its agencies to properly plan major infrastructure projects while ensuring communities and businesses can plan ahead.</li> <li>▪ <u>Business support</u>: Other projects and strategies to prepare for the Brexit were also taken / implemented, such as Brexit Loan Scheme, Action Plan for Jobs 2017 and 2018, Building Stronger, Business, and the Trade and Investment Strategy; <i>Brexit Loan Scheme</i></li> <li>▪ An additional capital expenditure allocation of €4.3 billion over 2018-2021 will be central to Ireland’s response to Brexit and will allow the State and its agencies to properly plan major infrastructure projects while ensuring communities and businesses can plan ahead.</li> <li>▪ Targeted investment by the Government in public infrastructure including</li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<p><u>transport, water and community infrastructure</u>, through inviting local authorities to bid for funding for infrastructure projects, will open up strategic housing development sites and will meet spatial planning priorities. In particular, the <i>Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund</i> (LIHAF) provides funding for key transport and other public infrastructure in areas of high <u>housing</u> demand by means of targeted selection of the infrastructure projects that will provide the best return in terms of delivering accelerated housing supply, increased social housing, and meet spatial planning objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The section on EU-Funding lacks any specific reference to the role of LRAs in policy implementation.</li> </ul>	
<b>d) Institutional capacity</b>		<b>0</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Institutional capacity-building	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
<b>e) Partnership and MLG</b>		<b>6</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	Mentioned consistently throughout the document.	2
Cooperation models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business support: Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs)</li> <li>• Education:</li> <li>• National Economic and Social Council (NESC)</li> <li>• National Competitiveness Council</li> <li>• Labour Employer Economic Forum (LEEF)</li> <li>• A Vacant Homes Unit has been established to drive action at central and</li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<p>local government levels to bring recoverable vacant housing units back into liveable use. The majority of local authorities have now produced a <i>Vacant Homes Action Plan</i> setting out, inter-alia, actions to address vacant private housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Social inclusion/housing</u>: <i>Rebuilding Ireland – Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness</i> change in policy direction, increasing local authority building activity. The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government is working with Local Authorities and Approved Housing Bodies on issues such as land, resources, planning and design to support accelerated delivery.</li> <li>• <u>Administration</u>: One example for inter-administrative coordination is the <i>Pathways to Work</i> strategy for 2016 to 2020. [...] The strategy contains 86 actions across 11 Departments and agencies.</li> </ul>	
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The preparation of this <i>National Reform Programme</i> included the <i>submissions from 11 groups</i>.</li> <li>▪ <i>Brexit Stakeholder Forum</i>: brings together key stakeholders with a view to regularly updating members on the progress of Brexit negotiations</li> <li>▪ <b>Regional Skills Fora</b>: To help foster stronger links between employers and the education and training sector, the Department of Education and Skills has established a network of nine <i>Regional Skills Fora</i> and appointed nine Regional Skills Fora Managers.</li> <li>▪ The Action Plan for 2018 foresees the refresh and refocus of the Regional Action Plans through nine Regional Implementation Committees, involving key regional stakeholders that include the Enterprise Agencies, Local Authorities, Higher Education Institutes, LEOs (Local Employment Office), and ‘enterprise champions’ from the business community.</li> <li>▪ The <i>Action Plan for Rural Development</i> was launched by Government in January 2017. It acts as an overarching structure for the co-ordination and implementation of initiatives right across Government which will benefit rural Ireland.</li> <li>▪ The <i>National Skills Council</i> and the <i>Regional Skills Fora</i> were established</li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<p>by the Department of Education and Skills as part of the <i>National Skills Strategy 2025</i> and <i>Action Plan for Education 2016-2019</i> commitment to develop a new skills architecture. Established in 2017, the National Skills Council is made up of members from the public and private sector who advise on the existing and future skills needs of our economy and society. The nine <i>Regional Skills Fora</i> were established in 2016 and provide a structure for enterprise, employers and the education and training system to work together to respond to the identified skills needs of their regions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection engages with a wide range of stakeholders on social protection and inclusion policies and practice. The national and local stakeholders include people experiencing poverty, civil society groups, government/public officials, social partners and experts.</li> </ul>	

## 5.15 Country Fiche – IT Italy

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Basic features of the administrative system	The regions of Italy represent the first sub-regional tier. There are 20 regions, of which five are constitutionally given a broader amount of autonomy granted by special statutes. Each region, except for the <a href="#">Aosta Valley</a> , is divided into <a href="#">provinces</a> . Regions are autonomous entities with powers defined in the Constitution. The so-called <a href="#">province</a> (provincia) is an administrative division at an intermediate level between the municipality ( <a href="#">comune</a> ) and the <a href="#">region</a> (regione). There are currently 107 provinces in Italy.	National Reform Programme for Italy, 2018 Radzyner, A. & al. (2014)
Regions and their role	The regions of Italy are the first-level administrative divisions of the country, constituting its second NUTS administrative level. There are 20 regions, of which five are constitutionally given a broader amount of autonomy granted by special statutes. Each region, except for the Aosta Valley, was divided into provinces. Italy therefore follows a devolved regional policy system, with separate decision-making for ERDF and national funding; regional decision making is detached from central policy level.	National Reform Programme for Italy, 2018  Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.
Regional disparities in the MS	Gradient in GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2016 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average (capital region - highest – lowest): Lazio 110% - Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano/Bozen 149% - Calabria 59%	Eurostat, 2018
<b><i>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</i></b>		<b>6</b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	See below under Specific policies. ▪ Education	2
Impact / Coverage	Impacts of policy measures on the LRAs are implicitly mentioned throughout the document, e.g. fiscal measures for Mezzogiorno.	2
Specific policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ SME/Business support</li> <li>▪ Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Education</li> </ul>	2



Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Environment/Climate Measures</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Housing</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b>8</b>
Preparation of the NRP	Regions and Autonomous Provinces were included in the process.	2
Implementation of the NRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fiscal policy: state budget and financing of Municipalities, Metropolitan Cities and Provinces</li> <li>▪ SME/Business support</li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation)</li> </ul>	2
Evaluation of the NRP	A reference is made to the NRP 2017.	1
Europe 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation)</li> <li>▪ Environment/Climate Measures</li> <li>▪ Energy Efficiency</li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> </ul>	2
European Pillar of Social Rights	<p>EPSR is not explicitly mentioned in the documents</p> <p>Policy measures in line with the principles of EPSR and including LRAs are mentioned.</p>	1
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investment</i></b>		<b>4</b>
Territorial perspective	The differences are not explicitly mentioned. However, the newly adopted measures of support to Mezzogiorno are indicative of possible differences.	1
Role of LRAs	See below under Related policies.	1
Related policies	The Budget Law will support LRAs (investments in public works, In order to facilitate investments in the Mezzogiorno, several measures	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	mentioned above will be implemented, mainly in the fields of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Infrastructure</li> <li>- Environment/Climate Measures</li> <li>- SME/Business support</li> <li>- Agriculture, Forestry &amp; Fishing</li> <li>- Administration</li> </ul>	
<b>d) Institutional capacity</b>		<b>5</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public Sector Reform</li> <li>- Administration</li> <li>- Digitalisation</li> </ul>	2
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	Relevant measures are explicitly mentioned in the documents.	2
Institutional capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration</li> </ul>	1
<b>e) Partnership and MLG</b>		<b>5</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	The inclusion of LRAs is mentioned continuously in the document.	2
Cooperation models	Some of the examples come from the sectors of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation)</li> <li>- Tourism: Tourism Strategy</li> <li>- Employment</li> <li>- Social Inclusion</li> </ul>	2
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Ports management</li> </ul> </li> <li>- SME/Business support</li> <li>- Social Inclusion</li> </ul>	1

## 5.16 Country Fiche – LT Lithuania

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<b>Introductory information</b>		
Basic features of the administrative system	<a href="#">Lithuania</a> is divided into 10 counties. The counties are subdivided into <a href="#">60 municipalities</a> . There are three types of municipalities: 43 district municipalities roughly corresponding to districts that existed under the Soviet rule; 7 city municipalities. They are situated around major or important cities. Next to these 10 non-specific municipalities have been established. In 2010, the county administrations were abolished, and since that date, counties remains as the territorial and statistical units.	National Reform Programme for Lithuania, 2018 Radzyner, A. & al. (2014)
Regions and their role	Next to local roads, water and waste management the municipalities are also in charge of social and healthcare services and education. Lithuanian municipalities have been affected by the economic recession of the country, political changes and especially public administration reform and also by legislative changes in the fields of health care, education, and social care. In particular, rural municipalities encounter serious difficulties in managing and maintaining local public amenities.	
Regional disparities in the MS	N/A (due to the administrative set-up and size) GDP in PPS 2016 in NUTS-II Regions national average: 75%.	Eurostat, 2018
<b>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</b>		<b>3</b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	Disparities between rural and urban areas concerning education possibilities as well as differences in employment between the regions are briefly mentioned	1
Impact / Coverage	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Specific policies	Specific programmes are mentioned for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adult learning</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Energy Efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Renewable energy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2
<b>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</b>		<b>3</b>
Preparation of the NRP	The Country Report was discussed in the Parliamentary Committee on State	1

<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Evaluation / Assessment</b>	<b>Source / Scoring</b>
	Administration and Local Authorities.	
Implementation of the NRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> </ul>	1
Evaluation of the NRP	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Europe 2020	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
European Pillar of Social Rights	<p>EPSR is not explicitly mentioned in the documents</p> <p>Policy measures in line with the principles of EPSR and including LRAs are mentioned.</p>	1
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investment</i></b>		<b>0</b>
Territorial perspective	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Role of LRAs	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Related policies	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
<b><i>d) Institutional capacity</i></b>		<b>2</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	Optimisation of territorial labour exchanges is briefly mentioned.	1
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Institutional capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education</li> </ul>	1
<b><i>e) Partnership and MLG</i></b>		<b>0</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Cooperation models	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0

## 5.17 Country Fiche – LU Luxembourg

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Basic features of the administrative system	<p>Luxembourg is divided into twelve cantons, which are divided into 102 communes. A dozen of the communes have city status, and one, Luxembourg City, is further divided into quarters.</p> <p>Concerning regional policy, Luxembourg is a unitary state which follows an integrated system at central level with a dominant role of domestic policy.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Luxembourg, 2018</p> <p>Radzyner, A. &amp; al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014</p>
Regions and their role	<p>Municipalities have often been re-arranged, being merged or divided as demanded by demographic change over time. Unlike the cantons, which have remained unchanged since their creation, the identity of the municipalities has not become ingrained in the awareness of citizens. The cantons are responsible for the major administrative, and statistical aspects of government, while the municipalities provide local government services. The majority of municipalities has fewer than 3,000 inhabitants and lacks the human and financial resources to meet their tasks. The local taxation capacity is limited by the cap on local taxation rates and a system of fiscal equalisation (independent of population size and economic activity). Cooperation of municipalities in the form of technical boards (so-called <i>syndicate</i>) allows for shared management of local services.</p>	<p><a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Municipalities_of_Luxembourg">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Municipalities_of_Luxembourg</a></p>
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>N/A (due to the administrative set-up and size) GDP in PPS 2016 in NUTS-II Regions national average: 257%.</p>	<p>Eurostat, 2018</p>
<b><i>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</i></b>		<b>5</b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	<p>A Benelux project mentions in a general way territorial restrictions on supply in the retail market.</p>	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
Impact / Coverage	The Table and Europe 2020 in the Annex include a column on impacts, mentioning regional impacts.	2
Specific policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Environment/Climate Measures</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Refugees</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Structural Funds</li> </ul>	2
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b>4</b>
Preparation of the NRP	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Implementation of the NRP	Participation of LRAs is mentioned in the fields of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Environment/Climate Measures</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> </ul>	1
Evaluation of the NRP	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Europe 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Energy Efficiency</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> </ul>	2
European Pillar of Social Rights	The European Pillar of Social Rights is explicitly mentioned. However, without mentioning the involvement of the sub-national levels. Policy measures in line with the principles of EPSR and including LRAs are mentioned.	1
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investment</i></b>		<b>3</b>
Territorial perspective	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Role of LRAs	See below under “Related policies”. Implicitly mentioned.	1
Related policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Energy Efficiency</li> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> <li>▪ Administration</li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<b><i>d) Institutional capacity</i></b>		<b>3</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Environment/Climate Measures</li> </ul>	1
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Environment/Climate Measures</li> </ul>	1
Institutional capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Environment/Climate Measures</li> </ul>	1
<b><i>e) Partnership and MLG</i></b>		<b>3</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fiscal Policy</li> </ul>	1
Cooperation models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pact PRO Commerce</li> <li>▪ Climate Pact</li> <li>▪ The Social Aid Law</li> <li>▪ Luxembourg Centre for Integration and Social Cohesion</li> </ul>	2
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0

## 5.18 Country Fiche – LV Latvia

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Basic features of the administrative system	According to the administrative territorial reform from 2009, the country changed its administrative division - districts have been abolished, former towns, rural towns and parishes were merged into 110 municipalities and 9 republican cities with their own city council and administration.	National Reform Programme for Latvia, 2018 Radzyner, A. & al. (2014)
Regions and their role	<p>During the last years of local reform, the amalgamation and re-organisation of the local administrative system was completed when the Administrative-Territorial Reform Law was abolished, and the <i>Law on Administrative Territories and Inhabited Localities</i> was introduced instead. This law delegates to the Cabinet of Ministers the authority to prepare draft laws on creating directly elected regional governments. The current central government is not ready to implement this delegation; the establishment of regional self-governments or de-concentrated State institutions in the regions is subject to political debate. Presently the intermediate level of government in Latvia consists of five planning regions (indirectly elected regional governments).</p> <p>Latvian municipalities rely mostly on tax revenues, grants from the central government and fines they are empowered to impose for their revenues. The most important shared taxes are individual income tax (in 2012 the share of local governments is 80%) and real estate tax (the local government's share is 100%). The share for real estate tax is permanently set by law, whereas the share for individual income is the result of annual negotiations between the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments (LALRG) and the Cabinet of Ministers.</p> <p>The municipalities have far-reaching obligations on development and maintenance of public amenities (planning, education, roads, waste and water management, heating, health, housing, transport and support to economic development). In addition the capital city Riga has a couple of specific duties</p>	<a href="https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/countries/MembersNLP/Latvia/Pages/default.aspx">https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/countries/MembersNLP/Latvia/Pages/default.aspx</a>



Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
Regional disparities in the MS	N/A (due to the administrative set-up and size) GDP in PPS 2016 in NUTS-II Regions national average: 64%.	Eurostat, 2018
<b>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</b>		<b>5</b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employment</li> </ul>	1
Impact / Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Energy Efficiency</li> </ul>	2
Specific policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Health Care</li> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Spatial Planning/Regional Development</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ multifunctional youth initiative centres</li> <li>○ increase in the number of foster families, guardians and adopters</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Energy Efficiency</li> </ul>	2
<b>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</b>		<b>7</b>
Preparation of the NRP	The Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments was involved in the process.	2
Implementation of the NRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Extending the range of implementers of work-based learning</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Internal control system preventing corruption</li> <li>○ Inter-institutional cooperation for successful implementation of investment projects</li> <li>○ Access to free fast wireless electronic communications in public places</li> <li>○ E-services</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fiscal Policy</li> <li>▪ SME/Business Support               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ one-stop-shop principle</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> </ul>	
Evaluation of the NRP	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Europe 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Environment</li> <li>▪ Education               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Support to reduce early school leaving</li> <li>○ Career development</li> <li>○ Ensuring homogeneous distribution of special education institutions- development centres</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Implementation of projects within the scope of MES Youth Policy State Programme 2017 – strengthening partnership between local governments and youth organisations</li> <li>○ Social work specialists will improve their professional competence</li> <li>○ Cooperation between institutions and professionals – social work in the community will be developed</li> <li>○ Roma – cooperation and dialogue between Roma civic society; better coordination and implementation of Roma integration policy package</li> <li>○ Family-Friendly Municipality programme</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> <li>▪ Childcare</li> <li>▪ Health Care</li> <li>▪ Energy Efficiency</li> </ul>	2
European Pillar of Social Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ EPSR is not explicitly mentioned in the documents</li> <li>▪ Policy measures in line with the principles of EPSR and including LRAs are mentioned.</li> </ul>	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investment</i></b>		<b>2</b>
Territorial perspective	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Role of LRAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Inter-institutional cooperation for successful implementation of investment projects</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1
Related policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Health Care</li> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> <li>▪</li> </ul>	1
<b><i>d) Institutional capacity</i></b>		<b>6</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Inter-institutional cooperation for successful implementation of investment projects</li> <li>○ Access to free fast wireless electronic communications in public places</li> <li>○ E-services</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ SME/Business Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ one-stop-shop principle</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> <li>▪</li> </ul>	2
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Inter-institutional cooperation for successful implementation of investment projects</li> <li>○ Access to free fast wireless electronic communications in public places</li> <li>○ E-services</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ SME/Business Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ one-stop-shop principle</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> <li>▪</li> </ul>	2
Institutional capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Internal control system preventing corruption</li> <li>○ Inter-institutional cooperation for successful implementation of investment projects</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Access to free fast wireless electronic communications in public places</li> <li>○ E-services</li> <li>▪ SME/Business Support               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ one-stop-shop principle</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> </ul>	
<b><i>e) Partnership and MLG</i></b>		<b>5</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ Fiscal Policy</li> </ul>	1
Cooperation models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Inter-institutional cooperation for successful implementation of investment projects</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> <li>▪ Education               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Support to reduce early school leaving</li> <li>○ VET (Vocational Education)</li> <li>○ Career development</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Employment               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Primarily providing support to employed persons from social risk groups</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Inter-institutional cooperation for successful implementation of investment projects</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Implementation of projects within the scope of MES Youth Policy State Programme 2017 – strengthening partnership between local governments and youth organisations</li> <li>○ Roma – cooperation and dialogue between Roma civic society; better coordination and implementation of Roma integration policy package</li> <li>○ Development of an intercultural dialogue; facilitating mutual cooperation, as well as cooperation with the local governments</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2

## 5.19 Country Fiche – MT Malta

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Basic features of the administrative system	Malta has been subdivided into 68 local councils respectively municipalities. These form the most basic form of local government and there are no intermediate levels between it and the national level. The levels of the 6 districts (5 on the main island) and of the 3 regions (2 on the main island) serve statistical purposes.	National Reform Programme for Malta, 2017 Radzyner, A. & al. (2014)
Regions and their role	<p>The Department for Local Government is located within the Office of the Prime Minister. Its role is to monitor and support local councils and spearhead devolution and decentralisation. The last two decades have seen a gradual decentralisation of powers and services.</p> <p>Local councils have revenue-raising powers; however over three-quarters of their revenue comes from central government transfers. Local councils in Malta are responsible for the maintenance of footways, road signs, playgrounds, gardens and leisure facilities, and for refuse collection and a range of education and health service institutions.</p> <p>The monitoring unit (MU) of the Department for Local Government monitors the financial commitments of local councils; particularly in the case of those, which end their financial year in deficit, and those, which feature in the annual report of the auditor general.</p>	<a href="http://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Malta.pdf">http://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Malta.pdf</a>
Regional disparities in the MS	N/A (due to the administrative set-up and size) GDP in PPS 2016 in NUTS-II Regions national average: 95%.	Eurostat, 2018
<b>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</b>		<b>3</b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0

Impact / Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> </ul>	1
Specific policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation)</li> <li>▪ Environment/Climate Measures</li> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ SME/Business Support</li> </ul>	2
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b>6</b>
Preparation of the NRP	The LRAs were involved in the preparation process.	2
Implementation of the NRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fight against money laundering and the funding of terrorism</li> <li>○ “Ordering Land Registry Plans Online” programme</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1
Evaluation of the NRP	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Europe 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Environment/Climate Measures</li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adult learning</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ „White Paper: Towards a Fair and Sensible Private-Rented Sector”</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2
European Pillar of Social Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ EPSR is not explicitly mentioned in the documents</li> <li>▪ Policy measures in line with the principles of EPSR and including LRAs are mentioned.</li> </ul>	1
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investment</i></b>		<b>2</b>
Territorial perspective	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Role of LRAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> </ul>	1
Related policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> </ul>	1

<b><i>d) Institutional capacity</i></b>		<b>4</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ „International Investment Programme“</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> </ul>	1
Institutional capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ „International Investment Programme“</li> <li>○ “Ordering Land Registry Plans Online” programme</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> </ul>	2
<b><i>e) Partnership and MLG</i></b>		<b>3</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> </ul>	1
Cooperation models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fight against money laundering and the funding of terrorism</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ „White Paper: Towards a Fair and Sensible Private-Rented Sector”</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1

## 5.20 Country Fiche – NL Netherlands

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Basic features of the administrative system	<p>The Netherlands is divided into twelve administrative regions, called provinces. All provinces are divided into municipalities (gemeenten), 430 in total (13 March 2010). The country is also subdivided in water districts, governed by a water board (waterschap or hoogheemraadschap), each having authority in matters concerning water management. As of 1 January 2005 there are 27 - the creation of water boards actually pre-dates that of the nation itself, the first appearing in 1196. The Dutch water boards are among the oldest democratic entities in the world still in existence.</p> <p>Dutch provinces represent the intermediate administrative layer in the <a href="#">Netherlands</a> between the national government and the local municipalities, having the responsibility for matters of subnational or regional importance.</p>	<p>Radzyner, A. &amp; al. (2014). <a href="http://www.visitholland.nl/index.php/general-info/the-country/geography-facts/238-administrative-divisions-in-netherlands">http://www.visitholland.nl/index.php/general-info/the-country/geography-facts/238-administrative-divisions-in-netherlands</a></p>
Regions and their role	<p>The Netherlands are a federate state meaning the country has a strong central government but regions do have a certain degree of autonomy. Dutch municipalities do not have a delineated set of competences. In most competences, the municipalities have an executive function, executing policy that is defined at national or provincial level. Legally municipalities have an "open household" which means that it can take on any competence it wishes as long as it does not violate national policy or break constitutional bounds. The municipality competences, often shared between national and municipal government include zoning and local development plans, education, transport, social affairs and economy.</p> <p>Municipalities get most of their finances from the national government. Partially through the municipal fund in which the national government puts part of its tax income. This money is divided evenly over the municipalities, which can spend it as they see fit. Moreover, municipalities receive earmarked budgets from the national government for specific competences such as social security.</p>	<p><a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Municipal_politics_in_the_Netherlands">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Municipal_politics_in_the_Netherlands</a></p>



Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	Municipalities can also levy their own taxes - the most important one being a tax on home and building ownership	
Regional disparities in the MS	Gradient in GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2016 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average  (capital region - highest – lowest): Noord-Holland 164% - Utrecht 149% - Friesland 89%	Eurostat, 2018
<b><i>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</i></b>		<b><i>1</i></b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	Beside national challenges (e.g. investment in RDI) the only challenge with territorial dimension is the housing market	1
Impact / Coverage	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Specific policies	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b><i>7</i></b>
Preparation of the NRP	Explicitly stated that the LRAs were involved in the preparation of the NRP	2
Implementation of the NRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The LRAs play an important role in the implementation and are given more responsibility for the implementation based on regional specificities. As mentioned above, 950 million will be reserved for regional challenges.</li> <li>▪ Funding for policy measures targeting poverty and debt reduction, which local authorities can use as appropriate</li> <li>▪ Dedicated budget of €18 million by the by expanding the Regional and Top Sectors Incentive scheme for SMEs and innovation credits for the SME sector</li> <li>▪ 140 million euros will be available annually for policy measures targeting early school-leaving, both for regional use and for tackling the problem at a school level</li> </ul>	2
Evaluation of the NRP	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
Europe 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Housing</li> <li>○ Child poverty</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Financial independence of women</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Health Care</li> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation)</li> </ul>	2
European Pillar of Social Rights	<p>EPSR is not explicitly mentioned in the documents</p> <p>Policy measures in line with the principles of EPSR and including LRAs are mentioned.</p>	1
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investments</i></b>		<b><i>1</i></b>
Territorial perspective	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Role of LRAs	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Related policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Central Government enhances the administrative capacity of LRAs regarding investments through the provision of more freedom to decide how to use the regional budget</li> </ul>	1
<b><i>d) Institutional capacity</i></b>		<b><i>3</i></b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Central Government provides more freedom to LRAs to decide how to use the regional budget (e.g. scope for experimentation in the Participation Act to examine what the best methods are for bringing people receiving social assistance into the labour market)</li> <li>▪ By increasing the responsibility of LRAs, their administrative capacity will respectively increase too</li> </ul>	1
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Central Government enhances the administrative capacity of LRAs regarding investments through the provision of more freedom to decide how to use the regional budget</li> </ul>	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
Institutional capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inter-departmental and inter-administrative social domain programme, which aims to strengthen the integrity of local policy in the social domain</li> </ul>	1
<b><i>e) Partnership and MLG</i></b>		<b>6</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Collaboration between LRAs and the social partners in the implementation of the Participation Act on increasing labour force participation and labour mobility</li> <li>▪ Collaboration among the Central Government, LRAs and the private sector in research and innovation initiatives</li> <li>▪ Strong emphasis on the multi-tier governmental collaboration, together with the social partners, NGOs, etc.</li> <li>▪ Administrative agreements were made on tackling child poverty with the Association of Dutch municipalities (VNG)</li> <li>▪ Collaboration between public and private parties will be strengthened to reach target groups better</li> </ul>	2
Cooperation models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Innovation Performance Contracts</li> <li>▪ "Tackling Early School-Leaving" programme</li> <li>▪ The Technology Pact – the connection between the education and the labour market</li> <li>▪ City Deals – solutions for integrated customisation within the social domain;</li> <li>▪ Employment</li> </ul>	2
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Inter-Administrative Programme (BBP) was recently agreed, in which new, tentative agreements were made by the central government and the above authorities to collaborate more closely on social challenges</li> <li>▪ Explicitly stated that the social partners are involved in the preparation of the NRP. Their contribution is explained in a separate document annexed to the NRP.</li> <li>▪ "Tackling Early School-Leaving" programme (140 million euros will be</li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<p>available annually for policy measures targeting early school-leaving, both for regional use and for tackling the problem at a school level.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ “Invest-NL” will be launched during that term and will play a role in financing high-risk activities of businesses engaged in major transition projects (such as energy, mobility and food), the social domains (such as healthcare, safety and education) and the growth of start-ups and scale-ups to larger businesses. Efforts to tackle debt including ministries, municipalities, public-sector organisations and private parties</li> <li>▪ LRAs collaborating with social partners regarding long-term unemployment among people over fifty</li> <li>▪ The involvement of more parties in the regional collaboration will be encouraged, including parties in the labour market and healthcare domains.</li> <li>▪ Regional collaboration between municipalities and schools in reintegrating young people at a distance from the labour market has improved during the implementation of the ESF in 80% of the labour market regions.</li> <li>▪ Labour force participation by people at a distance from the labour market will be increased in collaboration with the social partners and other parties.</li> </ul>	

## 5.21 Country Fiche – PL Poland

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Basic features of the administrative system	<p>The administrative division of Poland since 1999 has been based on three administrative tiers: the territory of Poland is divided into voivodeships (provinces); these are further divided into powiats (counties), and these in turn are divided into gminas (communes or municipalities). Major cities normally have the status of both gmina and powiat. Poland currently is subdivided into 16 voivodeships, 379 powiats (including 65 cities with powiat status), and 2,479 gminas. The current system was introduced pursuant to a series of acts passed by the Polish parliament in 1998, and came into effect on 1 January 1999.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Poland, 2017</p> <p>Radzyner, A. &amp; al. (2014).</p>
Regions and their role	<p>The process of administrative decentralisation in Poland resulted in the delegation of many competences to LRAs.</p> <p>Regional level is in charge of economic development and labour market policy, transport, culture, ICT, health and social affairs, sports and tourism, environment protection, and even defence. An intermediate level has been established being in charge of affairs which cannot be tackled efficiently at local level. It is sought to coordinate policies in vital areas such as health and social affairs, education, sport and tourism, transport or labour market policies. In shared policy areas such as education, transport, culture, health and social affairs the local competences are delineated and quite restricted. Pure local competences cover e.g. local planning and public areas.</p> <p>Pursuant to the Act on Local Government Revenue, sub-national governments benefit from three sources of revenue: own revenue, general subsidies and grants from the national budget. In 2005, sub-national governments' revenue were derived from taxation (own-source and shared), grants and other sources. The Municipalities' revenue consisted of 19.4% of autonomous taxation, 20.7% of shared tax, 43.6% of grants and 16.3% of others. The Counties' revenue was composed of about 13.8% of shared tax, 70.8% of grants and 15.4% of others.</p>	<p><a href="https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/countries/Members/NLP/Poland/Pages/default.aspx">https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/countries/Members/NLP/Poland/Pages/default.aspx</a></p>

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	The Regions' revenue was composed of about 55.7% of shared tax, 35.1% of grants and 9.2% of others.	
Regional disparities in the MS	Gradient in GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2016 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average  (capital region - highest – lowest): Mazowieckie 109% - Dolnoslaskie 76% - Lubelskie 47%	Eurostat, 2018
<b><i>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</i></b>		<b>4</b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	Rural and urban areas, smaller towns, regions with high unemployment and heavily polluted cities are explicitly mentioned.	1
Impact / Coverage	The impact of measures is mentioned in the area of investment support.	1
Specific policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SME/Business support</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ Health Care</li> <li>▪ Environment/Climate Measures</li> <li>▪ Child Care</li> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Employment</li> </ul>	2
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b>8</b>
Preparation of the NRP	LRA involvement is explained in detail.	2
Implementation of the NRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Health Care</li> <li>▪ SME/Business support</li> <li>▪</li> </ul>	2
Evaluation of the NRP	In the section on the 2017 NRP, effects on spatial planning and suburbanisation are briefly mentioned.  The Table “Description of the measures initiated from June 2016 to April 2017	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	and qualitative information on their impact” contains a qualitative evaluation of the effects of measures concerning employment and childcare.	
Europe 2020	LRA involvement is mentioned in detail for the following policy fields: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Environment/Climate Measures</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> </ul>	2
European Pillar of Social Rights	EPSR is explicitly mentioned in the context of preparatory discussions with the trade unions, however not in connection with LRAs.  Policy measures in line with the principles of EPSR and including LRAs are mentioned.	1
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investment</i></b>		<b>5</b>
Territorial perspective	Interregional development gap is mentioned in connection with a programme for investment support as well as problems of smaller towns with cashless payment.	1
Role of LRAs	See below under “Related policies”.	2
Related policies	Investment support is one focus of the NRP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SME/Business support</li> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation)</li> </ul>	2
<b><i>d) Institutional capacity</i></b>		<b>2</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	Monitoring of municipalities in connection with social inclusion (family support systems) is mentioned.	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	LRA <u>administration</u> capacity is mentioned in connection with local tax simplification.	1
Institutional capacity-building	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
<b><i>e) Partnership and MLG</i></b>		<b>2</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Cooperation models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Environment/Climate Measures</li> </ul>	1
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> </ul>	1



## 5.22 Country Fiche – PT Portugal

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Basic features of the administrative system	<p>Administratively, Portugal is a unitary and decentralized State. Nonetheless, operationally, it is highly centralized system with administrative divisions organized into three tiers. The Republic of Portugal is composed of two Autonomous Regions (Regiões Autónomas), 308 Municipalities (Concelhos Municípios) and 3,092 Civil Parishes (Freguesias). The Constitution establishes three types of LRAs - civil parishes (freguesias), municipalities (municípios) and administrative regions (regiões administrativas). Nearly all municipalities are subdivided into civil parishes. The implementation of formal administrative regions is embedded in the Constitution but so far this process has not been achieved. The Portuguese territory was redefined during the European integration, introducing a system of statistical regions fitting into the NUTS-classification of the EU and its significance for regional policies.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Portugal, 2018</p> <p>Radzyner, A. &amp; al. (2014).</p>
Regions and their role	<p>The seven main regions on the mainland in charge of decentralised administration services are empowered with financial and administrative autonomy (the Autonomous and sub-regional coordination commissions Comissões de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regiona l- CCDR). Municipalities have far-reaching competences in infrastructure development and maintenance, education, social and health affairs, housing, planning, police. The parishes - as level below the municipalities - are e.g. in charge of rural and urban infrastructure; education, culture, leisure and sport, primary health care and social welfare, planning etc.</p> <p>A law in 2013 introduced two types of intermunicipal cooperation: metropolitan areas (áreas metropolitanas) and intermunicipal communities (comunidades intermunicipais). Also, the powers and duties of the civil parishes, municipalities, metropolitan areas and intermunicipal communities were specified. Currently 21 inter-municipal communities (comunidades intermunicipais), associations of municipalities, and two metropolitan areas (áreas metropolitanas) and urban communities exist. The role of these authorities is aimed at coordinating the</p>	<p><a href="https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Portugal-intro.aspx">https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Portugal-intro.aspx</a></p>

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	municipal investments. Their areas of competence also include strategic, economic, social and territorial management.	
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2016 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average</p> <p>(capital region - highest – lowest): Lisboa 102% - Algarve 81% - Norte 65%</p>	Eurostat, 2018
<b><i>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</i></b>		<b>4</b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	See below under Specific policies.	1
Impact / Coverage	Annex 1, Part 1 provides a table with a dedicated column on impact, including impact at the local/regional level.	1
Specific policies	<p>Strategy for territorial development (Valorização do território – Valuing the territory) with three pillars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Competitive territory: urban development, focus on employment, energy efficiency and social innovation</li> <li>▪ Cohesive and resilient territory: natural resources (sea, forest), connectivity, esp. transport network</li> <li>▪ Sustainable territory: efficient use and management of water, energy, coastal, natural values and biodiversity, transition to a circular economy</li> <li>▪ Administration (property registration)</li> <li>▪ Business support</li> <li>▪ Regional development (urban rehabilitation and revitalization)</li> <li>▪ Social inclusion</li> <li>▪ Tourism</li> <li>▪ Health Care</li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b>4</b>
Preparation of the NRP	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Implementation of the NRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ Water Management</li> </ul>	1
Evaluation of the NRP	The measures to monitor the effectiveness of the policies include carrying out ex-ante and ex-post studies, monitoring the implementation and analysing a set of selected impact indicators (overall and mid-term), with cursory mentioning of different levels of administration.	1
Europe 2020	<p>In the section on Europe 2020, LRAs are mentioned in the context of Public Administration efficiency improvement.</p> <p>In the respective Annex 3, regions are mentioned in the context of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Programme Start-up Portugal</li> <li>▪ National Programme of Territorial Cohesion</li> <li>▪ Defining priorities for the Smart Specialisation Strategy</li> <li>▪ Education: qualification needs</li> </ul>	1
European Pillar of Social Rights	<p>EPSR is not explicitly mentioned in the documents</p> <p>Policy measures in line with the principles of EPSR and including LRAs are mentioned.</p>	1
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investment</i></b>		<b>0</b>
Territorial perspective	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Role of LRAs	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Related policies	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<b>d) Institutional capacity</b>		<b>3</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	Further decentralisation of functions foreseen through the strengthening of the role of municipalities and parishes in management of local public services.	1
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Institutional capacity-building	In the context of state reform, the strengthening of LRA competences is mentioned.	2
<b>e) Partnership and MLG</b>		<b>4</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	A state reform strengthening the role of LRAs is underway.	2
Cooperation models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adult learning</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Simplified Cadastral Information System</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Water management</li> </ul>	1
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	<p>Civil society partners are included in activities on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adult learning</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> </ul>	1

## 5.23 Country Fiche – RO Romania

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Basic features of the administrative system	<p>Romania's administration is relatively centralised and administrative subdivisions are therefore fairly simplified.</p> <p>Romania's territory is organized administratively into municipalities, towns and counties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ At the county level: 41 counties, and one city with special status (Bucharest, the national capital); The Romanian Counties are the administrative-territorial units at the intermediate level, while Communes, Towns and Municipalities (Cities) form the local administrative level.</li> <li>▪ At the town/commune level: 103 municipalities and 217 other cities (for urban areas), and 2856 communes (for rural areas). Municipality (municipiu) status is accorded to larger towns, but it does not give their administrations any greater powers.</li> </ul> <p>Below the communal or town level, there are no further formal administrative subdivisions. However, communes are divided into villages (which have no administration of their own).</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Romania, 2018</p> <p>Radzyner, A. &amp; al. (2014).</p>
Regions and their role	<p>At the regional level, the Regional Development Agencies are the executive bodies of the Regional Development Councils of the Development Region. Regional Development Agencies develop strategies, attract resources, identify and implement financing programmes and offer services for stimulating sustainable economic development, partnerships and entrepreneurial spirit. The competences of counties comprise inter alia local airports, culture, primary health and social services. Shared competencies of the County with central public administration are in particular road infrastructure of County interest, special education; specific health and social services</p>	<p><a href="https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Romania.aspx">https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Romania.aspx</a></p>

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	The Municipalities (Cities), Towns and Communes are responsible for local roads, culture, waste and water management, local public transport, health and social services. Shared competencies of Municipalities (Cities), Towns and Communes with the central public administration authorities cover inter alia social housing for the youth and a series of further social services road management and specific fields of education	
Regional disparities in the MS	Gradient in GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2016 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average  (capital region - highest – lowest): București – Ilfov 139% - Vest 60% - Nord-Est 36%	Eurostat, 2018
<b><i>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</i></b>		<b>4</b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	See below under “Specific policies”. Regional disparities are mentioned in the areas of social inclusion, employment and energy infrastructure.	1
Impact / Coverage	See below under “Specific policies”. The impact of the measures at the local level is regularly mentioned.	1
Specific policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Spatial Planning/Regional Development</li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Water supply</li> <li>▪ Environment/Climate Measures</li> <li>▪ Energy efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Renewable energy</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Roma</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Health Care</li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b>4</b>
Preparation of the NRP	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Implementation of the NRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public Sector Reform</li> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ SME/Business support</li> </ul>	2
Evaluation of the NRP	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Europe 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Environment/Climate Measures</li> </ul>	1
European Pillar of Social Rights	<p>EPSR is briefly mentioned in the introduction, without relation to LRAs.</p> <p>Policy measures in line with the principles of EPSR and including LRAs are mentioned.</p>	1
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investment</i></b>		<b>3</b>
Territorial perspective	<p>Measures to tackle obstacles to investment are one focus of the CSR. See below under “Related policies”.</p> <p>The National Programme for Local Development is mentioned.</p> <p>Mentioned are lack of infrastructure in rural areas, problems of farms.</p>	1
Role of LRAs	Elaboration of the Local Public Finance Code and the Community Services of Public Utilities Code are mentioned. LRAs are part of the measures to increase business accessibility to services provided by public authorities (cadastre).	1
Related policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration</li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Agriculture, Forestry &amp; Fishing</li> <li>▪ SME/Business support</li> </ul>	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<b>d) Institutional capacity</b>		<b>5</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	Improving administrative capacity is a focus of the CSR. See also below under “institutional capacity-building”.	1
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	Stimulating local development is an explicit objective of the decentralisation process.	2
Institutional capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Transparency</li> <li>○ HR management</li> <li>○ Procurement</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Environment/Climate Measures</li> </ul>	2
<b>e) Partnership and MLG</b>		<b>3</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	Public sector reform: Decentralisation is an objective of the ongoing government reform, a major topic of the NRP.	2
Cooperation models	Mentioned are the envisaged Local Public Finance Code (public sector reform) and Local Action Groups in urban areas, marginalised communities (Roma) and rural areas for community development (social inclusion, regional development).	1
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0



## 5.24 Country Fiche – SE Sweden

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Basic features of the administrative system	<p>Sweden is divided into 21 counties; however, the numbers of counties has varied over time, due to territorial gains/losses and to divisions and/or mergers of existing counties. In every county except Gotland there is a county administrative board (länsstyrelse) headed by a governor (landshövding), appointed by the government, as well as a separate county council (landstingfullmäktige). The county council is the elected regional political assembly for the municipal affairs of the county.</p> <p>Still there is some differentiation in the system: there are twenty regional authorities, including 9 regions (regione) which formally are county authorities but have extended competencies in regional development than the other 11 counties (landsting) and there are 290 Municipalities (kommuner).</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Sweden, 2018</p> <p>Radzyner, A. &amp; al. (2014).</p>
Regions and their role	<p>In 2007 there were proposals made to merge the 21 counties into either 6 or 9 regions. Recently, the Ministry of Finance released an interim report to the government proposing three new counties and a new county division structure. The interim report (June 2016) states this new county structure can enter into force in 2019.</p> <p>Sub-national governments' revenues are derived from taxation, grants and other sources, mainly fees resulting from the provision of services. Sub-national expenditure in 2015 represented 25.1% of the GDP. Shared taxation exists only between Regions, Counties and Municipalities, not with the State. In 2008 local revenue was composed of 68.5% of local taxation, 21.6% of grants and 9.9% of others.</p> <p>The Counties have competence in the fields of public health, including healthcare and medical services, cultural institutions public transport. Next to its competences, the aim of the county administrative board is to supervise the local state administration that is not otherwise assigned to other government agencies,</p>	<p><a href="https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Sweden-intro.aspx">https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Sweden-intro.aspx</a></p>

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<p>and to coordinate the political goals with the central government. A number of several other government agencies are organised on a county basis (main bodies of the police, employment, social insurance, and forestry services). Municipalities hold mandatory administrative powers in the fields of transport, including local roads and public transport, social and health and rescue services, economic development, education, planning, waste and water management and environment protection.</p>	
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2016 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average</p> <p>(capital region - highest – lowest): Stockholm 173% - Västsverige 121% - Norra Mellansverige 99%</p>	Eurostat, 2018
<b><i>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</i></b>		<b>5</b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Employment</u>: Introduction of newly arrived immigrants into the labour market</li> <li>▪ <u>Housing</u> needs</li> <li>▪ Widening gaps in <u>educational</u> outcomes between different groups in society</li> </ul>	2
Impact / Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Annex mentions impacts of the measures, also mentioning the regional level.</li> </ul>	1
Specific policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ County Administrative boards have received a standing contribution of funds for processing and advisory tasks related to meeting <u>housing</u> needs. Furthermore, instructions for the County Administrative Boards have been amended with the addendum that, in their operations, they shall work on facilitating that the housing needs are met.</li> <li>▪ <u>Regional development</u>: A coordinator has been instructed to facilitate large, integrated developments to create the prerequisites for new, sustainable cities. A coordination function for complex planning conditions has subsequently</li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<p>been established.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A central government coordinator has been instructed to identify municipalities that have completed plans for large-scale housing construction that cannot be implemented for some reason, as well as areas that are not included in existing plans and where there is long-term potential for building entirely new cities. Agreements have been entered with three municipalities regarding six areas, and letters of intent have been entered with two more municipalities. In January 2018, a coordination function was established for complex planning conditions.</li> </ul>	
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b>8</b>
Preparation of the NRP	The importance of local and regional support is mentioned, e.g. the increased interaction between the national and regional level is mentioned in Chapter 6.3.	2
Implementation of the NRP	<p>The Local and Regional Support is explicitly mentioned in Chapter 6.3. An Annex with the contribution of LRAs lists projects in the fields of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Energy efficiency</li> <li>▪ Environment/Climate Measures</li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation)</li> </ul>	2
Evaluation of the NRP	Explicitly mentioned.	1
Europe 2020	<p>There is a clear reference of the role of the LRAs, mentioning that many of the LRAs have included the EU2020 targets into their development plans, budgets, etc.</p> <p>The importance of ESIF is highlighted in the document.</p>	2

<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Evaluation / Assessment</b>	<b>Source / Scoring</b>
European Pillar of Social Rights	EPSR is mentioned, but no reference to LRAs.  Policy measures in line with the principles of EPSR and including LRAs are mentioned.	1
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investments</i></b>		<b>4</b>
Territorial perspective	Labour market / demographic challenges at regional level	1
Role of LRAs	SALAR (Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions) is one of the main actors to overcome the recruiting challenge, due to ageing society, etc.	2
Related policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ European Structural and Investment Funds, measures supported by the ESF</li> <li>▪ SALAR is involved, together with other stakeholders</li> </ul>	1
<b><i>d) Institutional capacity</i></b>		<b>2</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	A coordinator has been instructed to facilitate large, integrated developments to create the prerequisites for new, sustainable cities. A coordination function for complex planning conditions has subsequently been established.	1
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Institutional capacity-building	The County Administrative Boards have received a standing contribution of funds for processing and advisory tasks related to meeting housing needs.	1
<b><i>e) Partnership and MLG</i></b>		<b>6</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Spatial Planning/Regional Development</li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Environment/Climate Measures</li> </ul>	2
Cooperation models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A central government coordinator has been instructed to identify municipalities that have completed plans for large-scale <u>housing</u> construction that cannot be implemented for some reason, as well as areas that are not</li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<p>included in existing plans and where there is long-term potential for building entirely new cities. Agreements have been entered with three municipalities regarding six areas, and letters of intent have been entered with two more municipalities. In January 2018 a coordination function was established for complex planning conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Building Rights Inquiry (N2017:06) has been commissioned to identify the possibilities of municipalities to ensure that existing building rights are taken in claim in accordance with prevailing detailed development plans.</li> <li>▪ <u>Business support</u>: Enterprise for Newcomers (Nyanlänt företagande, NF) programme: partnership of organisations including the Migration Agency, the Public Employment Service, and the growing number of local authorities and county administrative boards where the programme is operating</li> <li>▪ <u>Renewable energy</u>: The Government has commissioned the Swedish Energy Agency to distribute SEK 70 million annually in wind power premiums to municipalities in Sweden to increase the establishment of wind power.</li> </ul>	
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To enhance the dialogue with the social partners within the European Semester and the national decision-making process, the Government has established a reference group with representatives of the ministries concerned in the Government Offices of Sweden and of the social partners</li> <li>▪ Sweden's Most Important Jobs initiative in which trade unions and other entities, government agencies and interest organisations cooperate on initiative of SALAR.</li> <li>▪ National Forum for Sustainable Regional Growth and Attractiveness 2015–2020</li> <li>▪ A way in ('En väg in') is a three-year project financed by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, AMIF, running to 31 October 2019. The project owner is the municipality of Hedemora and partners are the Red Cross, Almi GävleDala, IUC Dalarna, the County Administrative Board, Hedemora Näringsliv and region Falun Borlänge.</li> </ul>	2

## 5.25 Country Fiche – SI Slovenia

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Basic features of the administrative system	<p>Slovenia is a centralised unitary state composed of statistical regions, devolved State administration units and municipalities. Next to 12 statistical regions (without administrative functions) Slovenia is composed of fifty-eight devolved State administrative units, which ensure State responsibilities and manage affairs falling under the area of expertise of their respective ministries at regional level. Two so-called macro- or cohesion regions represent the territorial division for the purpose of EU Cohesion Policy.</p> <p>Regarding the local level Slovenia is subdivided into 211 municipalities (eleven of which have the status of urban municipalities) – slightly more than 6,000 settlements indicate the mountainous character of the country. The municipalities are the only bodies of local autonomy in Slovenia. There is no official intermediate unit between the local and the national level.</p> <p>The 62 administrative districts, officially called "Administrative Units" (upravne enote), are territorial sub-units of government administration and are named after their capital. They are headed by a Head of the Unit (načelnik upravne enote), appointed by the Minister of Public Administration.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Slovenia, 2018</p> <p>Radzyner, A. &amp; al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European union, 2014.</p>
Regions and their role	<p>Municipalities in Slovenia obtain their money from tax revenues, non-tax revenues, capital revenues, donations, transfers and EU funds. In 2012 tax revenue represented 63,6% of local revenues, 4,8% is capital revenue, 18,8% in transfers and 0.3% in EU funds and donations. Local taxes represent more than 80% of local revenues.</p> <p>In accordance with the Constitution the local level has a broad set of competences comprising local affairs which affect the local residents: firefighting, education, child care, health and social care, economic and tourism development, management of public utilities etc.</p>	<p><a href="https://portal.cor.europa.eu/division/powers/Pages/Slovenia.aspx">https://portal.cor.europa.eu/division/powers/Pages/Slovenia.aspx</a></p>

<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Evaluation / Assessment</b>	<b>Source / Scoring</b>
Regional disparities in the MS	Gradient in GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2016 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average (capital region - highest – lowest): Zahedan Slovenia 99% - Vzhodna Slovenija 68%	Eurostat, 2018
<b><i>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</i></b>		<b><i>1</i></b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Impact / Coverage	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Specific policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Health Care</li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Spatial Planning/Regional Development</li> </ul>	1
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b><i>3</i></b>
Preparation of the NRP	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Implementation of the NRP	LRAs are mentioned in connection with spatial management and fiscal policy (financing of municipalities).	1
Evaluation of the NRP	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Europe 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Energy efficiency</li> </ul>	1
European Pillar of Social Rights	EPSR is explicitly referred to in the introduction; however without connection to LRAs.  Policy measures in line with the principles of EPSR and including LRAs are mentioned.	1
<b><i>c) Obstacles to Investment</i></b>		<b><i>2</i></b>
Territorial perspective	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Role of LRAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fiscal Policy</li> <li>▪ Spatial Planning/Regional Development</li> </ul>	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
Related policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Spatial Planning/Regional Development</li> <li>▪ Fiscal Policy</li> <li>▪ Tourism</li> <li>▪ Energy efficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Renewable energy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1
<b>d) Institutional capacity</b>		<b>1</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	<p>Spatial planning (new regional spatial plan) and social inclusion (reorganisation of social work centres) is mentioned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> <li>▪ Spatial Planning/Regional Development</li> </ul>	1
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Institutional capacity-building	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
<b>e) Partnership and MLG</b>		<b>1</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	Coordination between government levels is mentioned in connection with spatial planning and, especially, financing of municipalities.	1
Cooperation models	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0



## 5.26 Country Fiche – SK Slovakia

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Basic features of the administrative system	The territory of Slovakia is divided into eight Regions (Kraj; NUTS-3), 79 districts (okres, NUTS-4) and 2,890 Municipalities. Among the municipalities towns with own statute (in total 138) have a broader range of competences. In the capital city Bratislava and in Košice the city districts have quite far-reaching competences (similar to municipalities).	National Reform Programme (NRP) for Slovakia, 2018  Radzyner, A. & al. (2014).
Regions and their role	<p>The process of decentralisation is ongoing since 2002. A former system with decentralised state administration at regional and district level is being transformed towards regionalisation albeit in a limited number of areas such as environment protection this ‘old system’ consisting of regional and district offices of state administration is still in place. Most of the competences of regional and district offices of the State administration has been transferred to the regional self-governments.</p> <p>Key regional competences comprise second and third class roads, public road transport, territorial planning, regional development, own investment activities, secondary schools, hospitals, certain social services, cultural establishments (galleries, museums, theatres, certain libraries, etc.) and certain competences in health care.</p> <p>Debate on administrative reform focusses on the need to reform the local level in order to become more efficient. 92% of the communities have less than 3.000 citizens. Statistics show that small communities of up to 1.000 inhabitants spend around one third of their budget on self-administration whereas communities of 20.000-30.000 inhabitants are spending 10 % of their budget on self-administration. Experts state the need to merge small LRAs into larger units (the number of municipalities in Slovakia having about 5 million inhabitants is higher than that of bordering Austria having 8 million of inhabitants).</p>	<p><a href="https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Slovakia.aspx">https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Slovakia.aspx</a></p> <p>NRP 2017</p>

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
Regional disparities in the MS	Gradient in GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2016 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average (capital region - highest – lowest):  Bratislavský kraj 184% - Západné Slovensko 72% - Východné Slovensko 53%	Eurostat, 2018
<b>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</b>		<b>4</b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	The NRP mentions deprived areas with high ratio of Roma citizens and high unemployment rate but it does not mention any concrete regions. According to the Centre of Labour and social Affairs of the SR, the three following regions face unemployment higher than 7 %: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Banskobystrický kraj</li> <li>▪ Prešovský kraj</li> <li>▪ Košický kraj</li> </ul>	1
Impact / Coverage	The national project "Monitoring and evaluation of inclusive policies and assessment of their impact on the marginalized Roma communities" was launched in 2017.	1
Specific policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Roma</li> <li>○ Housing</li> <li>○ Social Services</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2
<b>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</b>		<b>3</b>
Preparation of the NRP	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Implementation of the NRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> </ul>	1
Evaluation of the NRP	As mentioned in a) Impact/Coverage the national project "Monitoring and evaluation of inclusive policies and assessment of their impact on the marginalized Roma communities" was launched in 2017.	1

<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Evaluation / Assessment</b>	<b>Source / Scoring</b>
Europe 2020	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
European Pillar of Social Rights	There is no explicit mention of the EPSR. LRAs are included in the policy area of social inclusion see b) Implementation of NRP).	1
<b>c) Obstacles to Investment</b>		<b>1</b>
Territorial perspective	Investment needs in deprived regions concern employment and social inclusion according to NRP (see a) specific policies)	1
Role of LRAs	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Related policies	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
<b>d) Institutional capacity</b>		<b>4</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	In order to reduce fragmentation and increase effectiveness of local governments administration of municipalities is being concentrated into larger units.  Majority of municipalities have already transferred a part of their competencies to other municipalities through joint local authorities.	2
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	Savings are expected by merging local governments into larger units:  Larger number of citizens allows economically more efficient administration and better use of the existing sources in the microregion environment. This could bring savings of hundreds of millions of Euro a year.  At the same time, the municipalities would not lose their identity by concentrating the administration in this manner. Also, the allocation of financial sources should not be decreased for a given location and municipalities would not lose the power to influence the decision-making with regard to the use of the sources.	1
Institutional capacity-building	The currently implemented public administration reform shall make public administration more efficient, cheaper, and modern. The aim is to create a uniform and transparent structure of local public authorities through	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<p>concentrating their activities.</p> <p>Within the project national project "The road to the labour market" 53 specialized counsellors were hired by labour offices in the least developed districts throughout the year to provide individualized services.</p> <p>It can be assumed that the eGovernment reform affects LRAs administrative capacities, nevertheless there is no specific mention of this.</p> <p>Analytical units are expected to be established in 2018 in the departments of Defence, Foreign and European Affairs, and in the DPMIIGO (ÚPPVII). The analytical capacities for the impact assessment (RIA) in 2017 were not strengthened, there is still the plan to occupy 26 new positions. The European Commission launched the Structural Reform Support Programme 2017 - 2020 in March 2017<sup>56</sup>. The aim of the programme is to contribute to the institutional, administrative and structural reforms in the Member Countries by way of technical assistance.</p>	
<b><i>e) Partnership and MLG</i></b>		<b><i>1</i></b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Cooperation models	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	There is short reference to cooperation between the business and education sector in order to reduce unemployment.	1

## 5.27 Country Fiche – UK United Kingdom

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Basic features of the administrative system	<p>The administrative geography of the United Kingdom is complex, multi-layered and non-uniform. The <a href="#">United Kingdom</a>, a <a href="#">sovereign state</a>, consists of <a href="#">England</a>, <a href="#">Northern Ireland</a>, <a href="#">Scotland</a> and <a href="#">Wales</a>. <a href="#">Local governments in the United Kingdom</a>, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales each have their own system of administrative and geographic demarcation, and uniquely in Europe, three separate legal jurisdictions: England &amp; Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Consequently, there is no UK-wide local government jurisdiction.</p> <p>Although the four countries are important for legal and governmental purposes, they are not comparable to administrative subdivisions of most other countries.</p> <p>With regards to regional policy-making, Structural Funds ran through a system of separate decision-making for Structural Funds and national funding that is entirely devolved to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (with UK Government in charge of England) but operating in a coordinated manner via a strategic body made up of civil servants of the four administrations.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for the UK, 2018</p> <p>Radzyner, A. &amp; al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European union, 2014.</p>
Regions and their role	<p>Under devolution settlements, policies can differ across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. A major point in the NRP are the shortfalls in network infrastructures which are perceived as obstacle to growth.</p> <p>The current government intends to transfer more responsibilities in infrastructure policies to regions. The key pillar are so-called Growth respectively City Deals between the Government and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) – the latter being combinations of local authorities and local businesses and in case of Cities wider partnerships. Funding is drawn from the Local Growth Fund (LGF), which brings together previously disparate infrastructure, housing and other funding streams.</p>	

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	London has also led the way in terms of devolution, with the Greater London Authority created in 1998 when it voted to have a directly elected Mayor. The key areas that London's local government controls are housing and transport.	
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2016 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average</p> <p>(capital region - highest – lowest):</p> <p>Inner London West - 611% - Inner London East 167% - North Eastern Scotland 144% - West Wales and The Valleys 68%</p>	Eurostat, 2018
<b><i>a) Territorial dimension and disparities</i></b>		<b>5</b>
Disparities, challenges and needs	<p>The NRP reports on the approaches of devolved administrations <u>across the major policy fields</u> but in most cases it does not provide any detailed references to the territorial dimension of policies.</p> <p>But when outlining social policy approaches the NRP refers several times to social disparities.</p> <p>An annex to the NRP provides the major indicators related to EU 2020 for the UK and at level of the devolved administrations.</p>	2
Impact / Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> <li>▪ Education</li> </ul>	1
Specific policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Employment</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion</li> <li>▪ Energy efficiency</li> <li>▪ RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation)</li> <li>▪ Energy Infrastructure</li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<b><i>b) Involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP</i></b>		<b>6</b>
Preparation of the NRP	<p>A rather general statement is provided that devolved administrations have contributed. However, the NRP was not subject to any formal consultation mechanism:</p> <p><i>Since the NRP does not contain any new policy announcements, it is not subject to formal consultation (p. 8)</i></p>	1
Implementation of the NRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fiscal Policy</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Housing</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Education</li> <li>▪ Employment</li> </ul>	2
Evaluation of the NRP	<p>There is no consistent section on the evaluation of the NRP but related to some examples of social and employment policies the NRP provides hints on the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms put in place.</p> <p>The same applies to RTDI such as e.g. the Nurse Review on research policies or the independent review of Catapult Centres.</p>	1
Europe 2020	<p>The specific section on Europe 2020 highlights the current programmes and major directions of devolved administrations.</p> <p>However the main explanatory text is on central government measures such as Universal Credit (i.e. the new social benefit, taking effect in late 2018).</p> <p>It does not provide any detailed systematic indications of the local authorities' role in the process towards achieving the goals of Europe 2020.</p>	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
European Pillar of Social Rights	The NRP does not explicitly refer to the EPSR but social policies including policies to combat poverty and to improve access to labour market for the most deprived has a significant weight in the Plan.	1
<b>c) Obstacles to Investment</b>		<b>5</b>
Territorial perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Digital Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Social Inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Housing</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ RTDI (Research, Technological Development and Innovation)</li> <li>▪ Transport &amp; Transport Infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Education</li> </ul>	2
Role of LRAs	<u>Housing</u> policy is understood as one major policy lever where national and local level cooperate in major development activities. The recently revised National Planning Policy Framework includes inter alia a standardised way of assessing local housing needs and also new arrangements to ease cooperation between developers and LRAs, green belt protection and fostered reuse of brownfields etc.	1
Related policies	Focus on <u>housing</u> policies with several pillars such as Homes England and specific financing schemes (Help to Buy and Affordable Homes) (it is important to note that a functioning housing market is a pre-condition for a mobile labour force).	2
<b>d) Institutional capacity</b>		<b>3</b>
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	<i>Not mentioned in the documents.</i>	0
Administrative capacity related to investment policies	The Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) is a competition-based pre-commercial procurement programme managed by Innovate UK. The programme enables companies to compete for R&D contracts to develop new products and	2



Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
	<p>services for the public sector.</p> <p>The Scottish CivTech is considered as <i>cross-public-sector tech accelerator</i> (cf. NRP 2018, p. 64).</p>	
Institutional capacity-building	RTDI: See above. SBRI can be considered as contribution to capacity-building.	1
<b><i>e) Partnership and MLG</i></b>		<b>5</b>
Coordination among the tiers of administration	<p>Most sections on policies start with a brief hint on the general role of the devolved administration in the respective policy field followed by policy outlines at level of the devolved administrations.</p> <p>The NRP refers to several areas in particular in housing supply and social policies where frameworks for coordination and cooperation or specific Funds have been set-up in order to cooperate with respectively to support the local level (for example the Youth Engagement Fund).</p> <p>Housing development is understood as coordinated policy approach including the Government and its incentives (loan options for infrastructure development at large sites), LRAs and bodies in charge of transport infrastructure development such as Network Rail.</p> <p>RDTI UK Research and Innovation established in 2018 also represents a significant step in the coordination of research policies.</p> <p>Concrete examples for coordination are provided for Scotland in anti-poverty policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Fairer Scotland Action Plan states that ... <i>this will ensure that public bodies are all working consistently towards the same anti-poverty goals (NRP 2018, p. 50.</i></li> </ul>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
Cooperation models	<p>The NRP mentions a couple of cooperation models in the fields of <u>education</u>, <u>RTDI</u> and <u>energy efficiency</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Scottish Enterprise and Skills Strategic Board. It's objective is to align and co-ordinate the activities of Scotland's enterprise and skills agencies</li> <li>▪ Welsh Regional Skills Partnerships (RSPs) which aim at setting priorities in order to develop apprenticeships in growth sectors</li> <li>▪ New Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF) which brings together world class UK research with business investment to develop the technologies and industries of the future</li> <li>▪ The Scottish Energy Efficiency Programme (SEEP): <i>This integrated programme of support will deliver through partners in local government, housing associations, communities and the private sector, building on Scotland's existing successful area-based energy efficiency programmes.(cf. NRP, pp. 75-76); recent SEEP routemap (May 2018)</i></li> </ul>	2
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	<p>A noteworthy example from the NRP is the Scottish Business Pledge:  <i>'The Scottish Business Pledge, launched in May 2015, is a shared undertaking between the Scottish Government and businesses, with the goal of boosting productivity, competitiveness, employment, fair work and workforce engagement and development. (NRP, p. 39).</i></p>	1

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ISBN 978-92-895-0990-9  
doi:10.2863/38447

QG-04-18-784-EN-N



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