



**European Committee
of the Regions**

**Commission for
the Environment,
Climate Change and Energy**

ENVE

Financing climate action (part 2): cities and regions investing in energy



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**It does not represent the official views of the
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Foreword

"The science is unambiguous: we need to urgently accelerate our efforts to make the transition to a carbon-free economy to avoid the catastrophic impact of climate change. Local and regional governments are on the frontline, delivering more than 70% of climate change reduction and up to 90% of climate change adaptation measures. Yet, today, the lack of human and financial resources is holding back their capacity to deliver the ambitious change we need.

Following the success of the previous CoR study on climate finance, this handbook aims to improve access to and use of existing EU and national funding opportunities for local climate action. It shares experiences on the energy transition that is taking place in countries such as Belgium, Italy, Spain and Poland."

*Karl-Heinz Lambertz
President of the European Committee of the Regions*

"Despite the economic difficulties, European cities and countries are still putting measures in place to address the impacts of climate change, while also experimenting with innovative forms of financing.

The role of local authorities can be crucial in the fight against climate change. Local and regional administrations can play this role by guiding local policies in strategic areas such as mobility, energy and territorial planning. They can also play the role of preferred interlocutors for local companies engaged in emission reduction actions.

We produced this handbook to make it easier for public administrations to implement and continue on this one-way street."

*Marco Dus
Member of the European Committee of the Regions &
Rapporteur of the CoR opinion on "Climate finance: an essential tool for the
implementation of the Paris Agreement"*

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List of abbreviations

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CF	Cohesion Fund
CoR	European Committee of the Regions
CSR	Country Specific Recommendation
DG	Directorate-General
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EFSI	European Fund for Strategic Investments
EIAH	European Investment Advisory Hub
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESCO	Energy Service Company
ESF+	European Social Fund Plus
ESIF	European Structural and Investment Funds
ETC	European Territorial Cooperation
LRA s	Local and Regional Authorities
LTS	Long Term Strategy
MFF	Multiannual Financial Framework
OP	Operational Programme
PDA	Project Development Assistance
RDP	Rural Development Programme
TO	Thematic Objective

Summary

The EU funds represent an important source of financing climate investments. With the current Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) to an end in 2020, the European Commission proposed an updated MFF for the period 2021-2027. Climate action remains one of the themes or policy areas which can be supported with different funds but there are some changes proposed to key EU funding streams. One of the main differences in the proposal for the next MFF is an increased budget allocation for priorities such as research, investment, migration and defence, while allocations for Cohesion Policy and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) are lower. Furthermore, under all priorities financial instruments will be promoted through an umbrella programme that brings together the various existing financial instruments. In terms of specific funds, the main sources for climate investments will remain the Cohesion Policy funds, the CAP, the LIFE programme and the new programme for research and innovation called ‘Horizon Europe’.

Key EU funds that provide resources for climate investments are the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF). Research into the climate finance options available in selected Member States shows that the ESIF remain an important source for LRAs to finance energy efficiency, sustainable and low-carbon mobility, nature protection, adaptation and other climate related activities. In addition, other funds and financing programmes are available in the Member States based on specific priorities or local initiatives.

Nevertheless, a 2017 study¹ for the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) concluded that despite the variety of financing opportunities available, LRAs often face a number of obstacles and challenges to access and use the EU, national and international climate financing options.

These challenges remain relevant and despite the availability of support tools and guidance from both EU institutions and stakeholder organisations, LRAs require further support to navigate and successfully use the different financing opportunities available. Therefore, targeted actions should be taken at the different levels of governance, including:

- EU-level:
 - Enhance the advisory services about the available EU financing options;

¹[Rossi, L. Gancheva, M. and O'Brien, S. 2017, Financing climate action: opportunities and challenges for local and regional authorities](#)

- Support the capacity building of LRAs with the available EU funds;
- Provide targeted training and advisory services on the use of financial instruments;
- Facilitate the use of different EU funds and financing options for investing in climate action;

- National level
 - Provide additional advisory services and information about national funds for climate action;
 - Support the capacity building of LRAs.

- Regional and local level:
 - Make use of the available support tools and guidance;
 - Be creative when using the available options for climate financing.

The report is structured as follows: Part 1 provides an update about the climate finance options available at EU level; Part 2 summarises the options available in the selected Member States (Belgium, Italy, Poland, and Spain); and Part 3 provides conclusions and recommendations. Details about the information sources and specific Member State financing options are provided in the annexes.

Introduction

Climate action requires targeted efforts across economic sectors and policy areas, which require substantial investments to ensure a transition to a low-carbon European economy. At the same time, the impacts of climate change are felt differently in each region and area of the EU, often necessitating tailored local solutions for mitigation and adaptation. Therefore, Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs) are well placed to invest in climate action and meet the unique local needs both in terms of opportunities and risks arising from the low-carbon transition.

The historic Paris Agreement, whose objective is to strengthen the global response to climate change and keep global temperature rise ‘well below 2°C’ while pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, requires its Parties, including the EU, to take decisive climate action. In light of its obligations under the Paris Agreement, the EU is working on putting in place policies that can implement its 2030 climate and energy framework. In addition, the European Commission published a 2050 Long Term Strategy (LTS)² that aims to outline long term decarbonisation objectives for the EU that can help achieve the Paris Agreement goals and deliver climate neutrality by 2050.

While the LTS provides opportunities for development of new technologies and specialisations in the EU, it will require significant investments across different sectors. The expected decrease in size and employment of certain industries (e.g. mining and extraction) combined with other changes associated with new technologies and global trends might put pressure on communities and their capacities to adapt to the low carbon transition. As the authorities on the frontline and closest to EU citizens, local and regional authorities (LRAs) will have the important task to manage this transition by investing in new opportunities and managing risks. At the same time, climate change is expected to have significant impacts across the different European cities and regions requiring LRAs to take action and invest in locally tailored mitigation and adaptation measures. Therefore, ensuring LRAs have access to public and private sources of climate finance is critical for meeting the EU climate objectives. In its Draft Opinion³ on the LTS, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) emphasises the need to establish a dedicated fund for the low-carbon transition, especially in those regions and sectors that will be impacted

² [COM\(2018\) 773, A Clean Planet for all: A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy](#)

³ [COR 2018/05736, A Clean Planet for all – A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy](#)

by the short-term effects of the transition most gravely, and guarantee access for small LRAs to EU financing.

A 2017 study⁴ for the CoR looked into the climate finance opportunities available to LRAs and found that they face a number of obstacles and challenges to access and use the options available at EU, international or national level. The main obstacles for LRAs when using climate finance instruments include:

- Lack of awareness about climate finance options;
- Insufficient administrative capacity and technical knowledge;
- Challenges in meeting the requirements of EU or international funds;
- Budgetary and regulatory constraints;
- Ensuring the ‘bankability’ of potential investments;
- Political constraints limiting climate investments.

Furthermore, the current EU financing period is coming to an end and the European Commission has put forward proposals for the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) that may bring changes to the financing options available to LRAs in the future. Therefore, the purpose of this report is to provide an update of the 2017 study and its policy recommendations by considering:

- The expected changes to the EU financing opportunities available to LRAs in the 2021-2027 MFF and any implications for LRAs’ access to these climate finance options;
- The climate finance options available to LRAs in four selected Member States – Belgium, Italy, Poland, and Spain.

⁴ Rossi, L. Gancheva, M. and O’Brien, S. 2017.

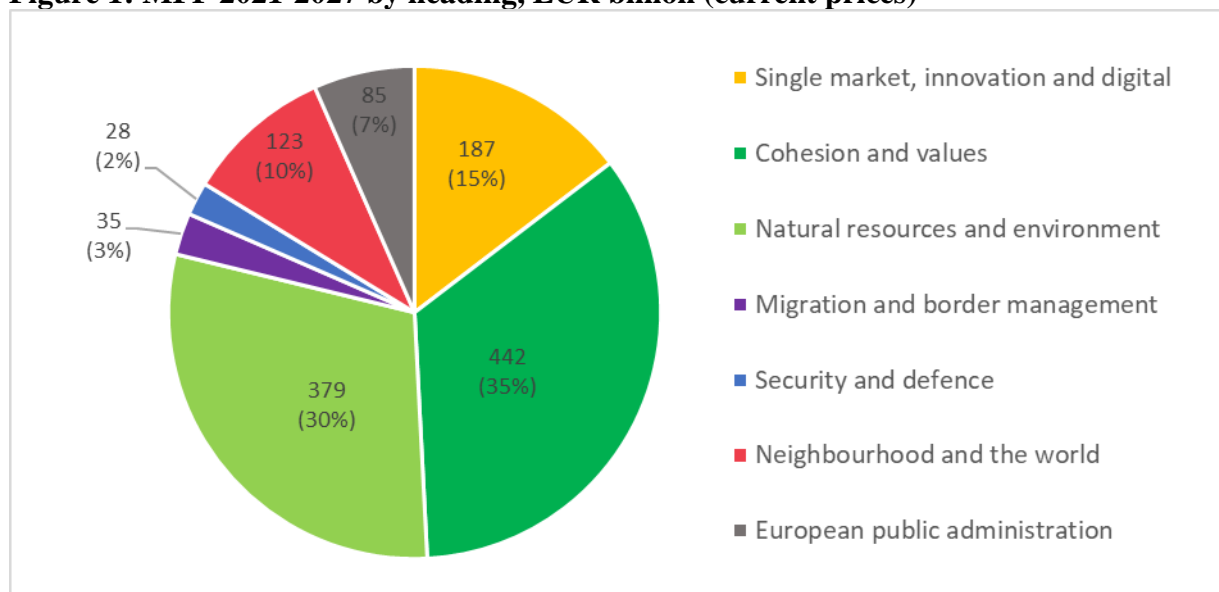
1. Part 1: EU opportunities available to cities and regions

EU-level financing opportunities represent one of the key sources of climate finance for LRAs. This part explores the main developments concerning these opportunities since 2017 when the previous study was completed.

1.1 Climate finance in the next MFF (2021-2027)

With the current EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) coming to an end in 2020, the European Commission has put forward a proposal for an MFF for the period 2021-2027⁵. The next MFF is no longer based on the Europe 2020 strategy; instead, it is organised around policy priorities represented by seven headings (see the following figure) and 17 ‘policy clusters’. Overall, the budget allocation for priorities such as research, investment, migration and defence is higher, while allocations for Cohesion Policy and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is lower as the total number of programmes will be reduced⁶.

Figure 1: MFF 2021-2027 by heading, EUR billion (current prices)



Source: own analysis based on COM(2018)321.

⁵ [COM\(2018\) 321, A Modern Budget for a Union that Protects, Empowers and Defends, The Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027](#)

⁶ [Parry, M, and Sapala, M, 2018, 2021-2027 Multiannual financial framework and new own resources. Analysis of the Commission's proposal](#)

This development was criticised by both the European Parliament⁷ and the CoR⁸. Both institutions pointed out that a reduction in the budget for the Cohesion Policy and the CAP put the achievement of territorial cohesion at risk and could exacerbate disparities between more and less developed regions and urban and rural areas. Furthermore, in its Opinion on the proposals the CoR found that in the absence of an obvious successor to the Europe 2020 strategy the MFF lacks links to strategic objectives. A clear definition of strategic EU policy objectives and their impacts would be critical for ensuring integrated efforts towards these objectives at different levels of governance.

Nevertheless, climate action features in the new MFF as one of key horizontal principles with dedicated funding across different programmes. The European Commission proposes to set a 25% target for climate mainstreaming across all EU funding programmes⁹ (this is 5% higher than in the current financing period). In its Opinion on the proposals, the CoR highlighted that this objective would not be sufficient to meet the Paris Agreement goals and suggested inclusion of a possibility to raise the share of expenditures going towards the decarbonisation in different sectors to over 30%¹⁰. In light of the LTS, the CoR also called for climate impact assessments of the EU funds that would support sectors and regions in energy transition to ensure this process was aided effectively¹¹.

While the opportunities for LRAs to finance climate action investments with EU funds will remain similar as in the current financing perspective, there are some changes or new features in a number of key funds that are proposed in the next MFF. The following sections explore these changes based on the legislative proposals made concerning the next MFF.

1.1.1 Cohesion Policy and regional development

Cohesion Policy represents one of the key sources of EU financing for LRAs. Heading 2 devoted to ‘*cohesion and values*’ has a potential to substantially contribute to climate action, primarily in the sub-heading on regional development and cohesion; although not directly concentrating on environment and/or climate. Compared to the current financing period, in the next MFF the Cohesion Policy (including the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund (CF) and the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)) support

⁷ [European Parliament Resolution of 30 May 2018 on the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework and own resources](#)

⁸ [COR 2018/02389, The Multiannual Financial Framework package for the years 2021-2027.](#)

⁹ COM(2018) 321.

¹⁰ COR 2018/02389.

¹¹ COR 2018/05736.

will be targeted to five overarching policy objectives instead of 11 thematic objectives. Support for climate action will be possible through funding for the ‘greener Europe’ objective: *‘a greener, low-carbon Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management’*. Investments under this objective are expected to target energy efficiency, renewable energy, adaptation and risk prevention¹².

Other objectives of the Cohesion Policy will support socio-economic local development of urban, rural and coastal areas and the development of clean urban transport, which in combination with the environment and climate-related goals provide LRAs with a possibility to achieve synergies in their efforts to invest in climate and local development with support from the Cohesion Policy funding in the upcoming financing period. This will be in line with another objective stressed under the proposals of the Cohesion Policy – more targeted support for locally-led development strategies, inclusive partnerships with LRAs and a stronger urban dimension of the regional development policy¹³.

The rules for spending the Cohesion Policy funds will remain similar to those in the current MFF but there are some new aspects that have been proposed. While the allocation of the cohesion funding will still primarily be based on GDP per capita, new criteria have been added including climate change. Relative prosperity will determine about 80% of the allocations but regions can benefit from additional premiums based on socio-economic and environmental factors such as unemployment, educational attainment, migration and greenhouse gas emissions¹⁴. In addition, the maximum co-financing will depend on the category of the region, with the new proposals setting the threshold at 70% for the poorest regions, at 55% for the transition regions and at 40% for more developed regions¹⁵.

The Commission also proposes to strengthen the link between the Cohesion Policy and the European Semester, which is a process of coordination and review of economic policies across the EU Member States. Since 2016, the Commission Directorate-General (DG) Environment has coordinated the mechanism of ‘Greening the European Semester’, which strives to foster environmental sustainability in macroeconomic policies and is reflected in the

¹² [COM\(2018\) 375, Proposal for a Regulation laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum and Migration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Border Management and Visa Instrument](#)

¹³ [Margaras, V. 2019, Common Provisions Regulation, New rules for cohesion policy for 2021-2027](#)

¹⁴ [European Court of Auditors, 2019, Allocation of Cohesion policy funding to Member States for 2021-2027](#)

¹⁵ COM(2018) 375.

preparation of annual Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) and of the National Reform Programmes that are parts of the European Semester process¹⁶. Under the proposals for the next MFF, the CSRs will be considered in the review of the Member States’ Operational Programmes (OPs)¹⁷. The CoR welcomed this proposal but pointed out that the regional perspective should be added to the European Semester to ensure clear and meaningful links are established¹⁸.

In addition to supporting Cohesion Policy, the ERDF finances also the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) instrument, known also as Interreg. The ETC supports cooperation across regions and borders and is viewed as an important element of EU integration. In order to address some of the implementation challenges such as administrative burden and to respond to new pressures, the Commission proposes a new generation of Interreg that reshapes the current strands, adds two new components and integrates cooperation with non-EU countries (see the following table for an overview). Furthermore, the proposed share of the budget for cross-border cooperation is lower than in previous financing periods, and the proposed ERDF co-financing rates are also lower (from 85% now to maximum 70% in the next period). Even though stakeholders such as the European Parliament and the CoR welcomed the important role given to the Interreg , they questioned the lower budget, especially in its shrinking cross-border component, and wondered whether the critical objectives of the Interreg can still be reached¹⁹. In addition to calling for higher allocations to the Cohesion Policy in the next MFF, the CoR stressed that cuts in its budget would undermine the Cohesion Policy’s important role in supporting innovation, digitalization, climate action and territorial cooperation²⁰.

Table 1: ETC components in the 2021-2027 MFF and the proposed share of total funding

ETC component	Share of the ETC funding
1. Cross-border cooperation (concentrated on land borders)	52.7%
2. Transnational and maritime cooperation	31.4%
3. Outermost regions cooperation	3.2%
4. Interregional cooperation (two programmes)	1.2%
5. Interregional innovation investments	11.5%

Source: own analysis based on Halleux, V. 2019.

¹⁶ [DG ENV, Greening the European Semester website](#)

¹⁷ [European Commission, 2018, Regional Development and Cohesion Policy beyond 2020: Questions and Answers](#)

¹⁸ COR 2018/02389.

¹⁹ [Halleux, V. 2019, European territorial cooperation \(Interreg\) 2021-2027](#)

²⁰ COR 2018/02389.

1.1.2 Natural resources and environment

In the MFF for 2021-2027, Heading 3 is specifically devoted to ‘*natural resources and environment*’ and might serve as another source of climate finance for LRAs. Under the first sub-heading, the MFF covers the CAP direct payments for farmers, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). The EAFRD and the EMFF can support rural and coastal communities: the proposals for the next MFF reflect this by increasing the emphasis on the need to develop ‘smart villages’ and sustainable and resilient ‘blue economy’. In addition to this stronger focus on sustainability, the main changes proposed for the next MFF relate to allowing Member States more flexibility in the implementation of these two funds²¹.

Nonetheless, the lower budget for the CAP puts at risk the achievement of rural development objectives²² and the CoR called for the establishment of an EU Agenda for Rural, Mountainous and Remote Areas in order to promote socio-economic development and nature protection in such areas, while fostering cooperation with urban areas²³.

The second sub-heading on environment and climate action in the next MFF covers the LIFE programme, whose budget has been increased by 50% compared to the current financing period²⁴. The new LIFE programme is expected to support mitigation and adaptation activities through its traditional climate strand; it also includes a new sub-programme under the same strand specifically dedicated to the clean energy transition. It is proposed that this new sub-programme encompasses capacity-building measures currently covered under Horizon 2020 and provides support for energy efficiency and renewable energy especially in regions lagging behind or in regions that experience difficulties in absorbing other EU funding. In addition, the LIFE programme is expected to focus more on the replication of results and deployment of solutions e.g. from past research projects²⁵.

While the CoR welcomed the increased budget for LIFE, it expressed concern that the climate and energy transition funds available to LRAs may suffer an overall reduction in the next MFF (especially due to the proposed decreases in the budget for the Cohesion Policy). Furthermore, the CoR called for keeping

²¹ [McEldowney, J. 2018, CAP reform post-2020 – Setting the scene](#); and [Scholaert, F. 2019, European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2021-2027](#)

²² COR 2018/02389.

²³ [COR 2018/05067, Resolution on the European Commission Work Programme for 2019](#)

²⁴ Parry, M, and Sapala, M, 2018.

²⁵ [Yougova, D. 2018, LIFE programme for 2021-2027, Financing environmental and climate objectives](#)

the current co-financing levels for LRAs in future delegated acts or calls for proposals and emphasised the need for provision of dissemination and technical assistance support to LRAs to ensure their participation in the programme²⁶.

1.1.3 Research and innovation

Climate action can be financed also under Heading 1 ‘*Single market, innovation and digital*’, which includes Horizon Europe – the EU programme for research and innovation that will succeed Horizon 2020. The proposal for Horizon Europe²⁷ keeps the main features and the pillar structure²⁸ established in the current financing period and suggests an allocation of a substantial part of the budget to Pillar II: ‘*global challenges and industrial competitiveness*’, which covers five policy clusters²⁹ including ‘*climate, energy and mobility*’ focusing on the development of climate science, the energy transition and clean transport. Even though climate projects will most likely be targeted by this cluster, relevant opportunities might be available under other policy clusters too, e.g. in combination with the digital economy or food and natural resource management.

Funding under Pillar II is usually dispersed through programmable actions and calls for proposals, which implies that, depending on the scope and conditions of specific calls for proposals, LRAs’ investments in climate action might be eligible for support from Horizon Europe. Furthermore, there are some new features proposed for Horizon Europe in the next MFF, including EU-wide missions and new European partnerships, which will be open to various types of stakeholders and will aim to promote specific issues³⁰. Although the topics and scope of these missions and partnerships will be programmed only at the beginning of the financing period, the new features might provide further opportunities for LRAs to benefit from Horizon Europe support for climate action. In addition, recently concluded calls under Horizon 2020 may offer additional opportunities for project development assistance (PDA) and climate finance for LRAs in the run-up to the 2021-2027 MFF (see the next box).

²⁶ [COR 2018/03653, Proposal for a Regulation establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action \(LIFE\) and repealing Regulation \(EU\) No 1293/2013](#)

²⁷ [COM\(2018\) 435, Proposal for a Regulation establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination](#)

²⁸ The three pillars are: 1) open science; 2) global challenges and industrial competitiveness; and 3) open innovation.

²⁹ These clusters are: health; inclusive and secure society; digital and industry; climate, energy and mobility; and food and natural resources.

³⁰ [Karakas, C. 2018, Horizon Europe – Specific programme implementing the framework programme](#)

Box 1: European City Facility and European Islands Facility

Two calls for proposals launched under Horizon 2020 – European City Facility³¹ and European Islands Facility³² - aim to mobilise investments for energy efficiency. While the outcomes of the calls remain unknown, the winning proposals are expected to set up facilities that offer financial support and/or expertise to cities, municipalities and islands. By providing technical assistance, PDA and other services, these facilities are expected to help leverage energy efficiency finance from additional sources.

1.1.4 Financial instruments

An increased use of financial instruments and synergies across the funds will be promoted in the next MFF. A key proposal in this direction is bringing the various existing financing instruments under a common umbrella, in the form of the InvestEU Programme, which combines the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) and other financial instruments from the current financing period. InvestEU will provide guarantees of EUR 38 billion with the purpose of mobilising public and private financing in the form of loans, equity and other market-based instruments. The Commission has estimated that these guarantees would mobilise EUR 650 billion for strategic investments that might otherwise be under-financed by the market, including sustainable infrastructure and social investments³³. The use of financial instruments from InvestEU is mentioned in the proposals for different funds, including the Cohesion Policy. Member States will be able to transfer a part of their Cohesion Policy funding (up to 5% of each of the cohesion funds) to the InvestEU Programme and to access the guarantee of the EU budget³⁴.

1.2 Obstacles faced by LRAs

The 2017 study³⁵ for the CoR found that the main obstacles for LRAs when using climate finance instruments and relevant EU funds include:

- Lack of awareness about the different climate finance options available;
- Insufficient administrative capacity and technical knowledge to prepare successful applications;
- Challenges in meeting the requirements of EU or international funds, for instance in relation to co-financing from other sources;
- Budgetary and regulatory constraints that can limit the availability of own resources for climate investments;

³¹ [European City Facility call](#)

³² [European Islands Facility call](#)

³³ Annexes to COM(2018) 321; and [Delivorias, A. and Zachariadis, I. 2019, The InvestEU programme, Continuing EFSI in the next MFF](#)

³⁴ [DG REGIO, New Cohesion Policy website](#)

³⁵ Rossi, L. Gancheva, M. and O'Brien, S. 2017.

- Ensuring the ‘bankability’ of potential investments, for example in relation to accessing financial instruments, technical assistance or Project Development Assistance (PDA);
- Political constraints and other policy priorities limiting climate investments.

These challenges remain relevant, especially in the context of the proposed changes for the next MFF. To benefit fully from the variety of funds and instruments, LRAs must be aware not only of the different options available but also of the different actions and priorities related to climate action which the EU funds can support in order to identify the most appropriate opportunities for their local climate and financial needs. The complexity of the rules and procedures for accessing EU funds together with a perceived mismatch between the local needs and the way in which EU funding programmes operate remain one of the main obstacles for LRAs when accessing the funding³⁶. This requires a clear strategy for communicating the rules and objectives of different programmes while providing advisory services and clarifying how different instruments can be combined to meet the local needs of each LRA³⁷.

Furthermore, even when aware of the different possibilities to finance climate action with EU funds, LRAs often have insufficient capacity to prepare successful applications and/or to manage the funding and the subsequent reporting. Therefore, stakeholders call for dedicated funding for technical assistance especially for LRAs to be made available in each EU budget line³⁸. In many Member States funding for technical capacity is focused on national administrations, and LRAs have not sufficiently benefited from such opportunities. The CoR has called for the establishment of a single set of guidelines to coordinate all EU-funded capacity-building measures in order to ensure LRAs adequately benefit from such opportunities³⁹.

These challenges can be exacerbated when LRAs seek access to financial instruments, as these might require the availability of co-financing from other sources or ensuring the ‘bankability’ of the potential investments. Meeting these requirements might be difficult for local administrations with limited budget or administrative capacity. Furthermore, experience with one of the main financial instruments in the current period – EFSI – shows that the financing remains unevenly distributed across regions and countries, with pre-2004 Member States

³⁶ [CEMR, 2018, Multiannual Financial Framework post-2020, An EU budget from local and regional governments’ perspective](#)

³⁷ [Ferrer, J. N. et al. 2017, Key challenges and opportunities for Cities and Regions and MFF post 2020](#)

³⁸ CEMR, 2018.

³⁹ COR 2018/05067.

benefiting from over 80% of the signed financing⁴⁰. With the increased emphasis on the use of financial instruments in the next MFF, the ability of LRAs, especially those in post-2004 Member States, to access EU funds for climate action might be jeopardised. Hence, stakeholders recall the need to ensure availability of structural funds, including in the form of grants, rather than replacing them with financial instruments⁴¹. The CoR has opposed the proposed levels of necessary pre-financing or co-financing for projects pointing out that many LRAs lack the financial capacity to raise sufficient own funds⁴².

1.3 Support initiatives available to LRAs

Various guides and support tools are currently available to advise stakeholders about the different EU funding streams. DG Budget published ‘*A Guide to EU Funding*’⁴³ that provides basic information about how the EU budget works and introduces stakeholders to key terminology. The European Parliament Research Service has also published a comprehensive ‘*Guide to EU Funding 2014-2020*’⁴⁴ which is available in multiple languages (including English, French, German, Spanish, Greek and Italian) and outlines the different EU funding available per policy theme.

Furthermore, [the European Investment Advisory Hub \(EIAH\)](#) provides various services to potential beneficiaries of EU financing, including: project development support, financial advice, guidance and training. It includes also specific advisory platforms, including [URBIS](#), which is dedicated to providing advisory support to urban authorities in order to accelerate and unlock urban investment projects and programmes.

Some stakeholder organisations have also published guides or tips geared especially towards LRAs. Climate Alliance has set up a ‘Working Group on Financing’⁴⁵ that aims to provide its members with information about tailored financing solutions. This Working Group serves also on the advisory board for the [EU-funded project ‘CITYinvest’](#). It focuses on innovative financing models for investing in energy efficiency in the building stock and brings 26 case studies that can provide LRAs with inspiration how to finance energy efficiency based on their specific needs.

⁴⁰ [European Court of Auditors, 2019, European Fund for Strategic Investments: Action needed to make EFSI a full success](#)

⁴¹ CEMR, 2018.

⁴² COR 2018/02389.

⁴³ [DG Budget, 2017, A Guide to EU Funding](#)

⁴⁴ [EPRS, Guide to EU Funding 2014-2020](#)

⁴⁵ [Climate Alliance, Working Group on Financing](#)

Last but not least, the Covenant of Mayors provides an [‘Interactive Funding Guide’](#) where its signatories or other interested stakeholders can find out about different EU funds and the types of investments they can support. Through the "advance search" box, users can filter the opportunities by sector, type of funding, project size, co-funding percentage, and other information (Annex 2).

2. Part 2: Climate finance instruments available to cities and regions at national level

The EU funds provide multiple opportunities for LRAs to finance climate action in the current financing period (2014-2020) as evidenced by the 2017 study. Nevertheless, funds within the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) can be spent differently across the Member States depending on the specific Operational Programmes (OPs) adopted (e.g. for ERDF, CF) or Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) agreed for the implementation of the EAFRD. Usually, relevant funding is spent under the Thematic Objectives (TOs) of low-carbon economy (TO 4) and climate change adaptation and risk prevention (TO 5). In addition, there might be other opportunities unique for each country that may be available to LRAs. The key financing opportunities for climate action that LRAs can access in four selected Member States are outlined in the following sections, while details for each option is presented in Annex 3.

2.1 Belgium

The ESIF funding available in Belgium is lower compared to that in the other three countries covered. Consequently, the amount of funding allocated to themes and objectives relevant for climate action is also lower. Overall, around EUR 0.6 billion is allocated to low-carbon projects (TO 4) and approximately EUR 0.3 billion to climate change adaptation (TO 5). Some relevant funding is also allocated to environment protection and resource efficiency (TO 6) – around EUR 0.7 billion⁴⁶. Within these themes, the three regional OPs can support actions related to energy efficiency, resource efficiency and the circular economy, waste management and urban development.

Given the relatively limited funding provided through ESIF, other sources of climate finance are more important in Belgium. Finance is available in the different Belgian regions from local governmental resources for various actions – navigating this landscape of funding programmes can be difficult due to the complex nature of Belgium’s public administration. There are several funding opportunities aimed at improving the energy performance of buildings, including the ‘Renovation Pact for Residential Buildings’ in Flanders and the ‘Energy Renovation of Buildings’ (UREBA) in Wallonia. In addition, energy

⁴⁶ [European Commission, ESIF Data portal](#)

services companies (ESCOs) exist to facilitate access to finance for energy efficiency investments through energy performance contracting.

Another source of financing in the three Belgian regions is green certificates. This alternative source of financing aims to promote low-carbon power generation by providing producers of electricity from renewable energy sources with green certificates for the power generated. These certificates gain financial value when sold and network operators are obliged to purchase such certificates at a fixed minimum price.

2.2 Italy

EU funding (especially the ESIF) is one of the primary sources of financing for investments related to environmental protection, including climate mitigation and adaptation in Italy. In the current financing period (2014-2020), the allocated budget to the theme of low-carbon economy (TO 4) is around EUR 6.1 billion, while the funding for climate adaptation (TO 5) is around EUR 5 billion⁴⁷. The principal sources of the ESIF funding are the OP Infrastructure and Networks covering the less developed regions (Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Puglia and Sicily), and the OP Metropolitan Cities, covering the 14 Italian metropolitan cities. OP Infrastructure and Networks supports primarily investments in transport, including environmentally-friendly and low-carbon transport systems, while the OP Metropolitan Cities supports investments for the sustainability of public services and urban mobility. In addition, regional OPs that exist in each of the 21 Italian regions (19 regions and 2 autonomous communities) and European Territorial Cooperation or INTERREG OPs include environment and climate protection (directly or indirectly) among their objectives.

The RDPs prepared within the framework of the CAP are other EU-supported sources of funding that can potentially be used for climate action, as they envisage efficient irrigation systems/infrastructure which for some regions is relevant to face water scarcity. Other types of investments include support for the development of bioenergy and the use of agricultural and agro-industrial by-products, reducing emissions from agro-industrial activities and increasing carbon sequestration through forestry.

Various national sources of funding can also be used for climate initiatives: the National Fund for Energy Efficiencies supports investments in more efficient

⁴⁷ [European Commission, ESIF Data portal](#)

public lighting and energy upgrading of buildings, while the National Experimental Programme for Sustainable Home-School and Home-Work Mobility and the Sustainable Urban Mobility Incentive Programme foresee investments in sustainable urban mobility.

Finally, the National Cohesion and Development Fund 2014-2020 finances different actions some of which are relevant for adaptation to climate change e.g. financing measures for the implementation of the national plan on hydrogeological instability, financing for the remediation of disused and polluted industrial areas, financing of the conservation of national cultural heritage, or financing for restructuring works of school building.

2.3 Poland

EU funding (especially the ESIF) plays a key role in financing investments related to climate action in Poland. During the current financing period (2014-2020), Poland has allocated EUR 1.4 billion from the ESIF to the theme of climate adaptation and risk prevention (TO 5) and EUR 11.6 billion to the theme of low-carbon economy (TO 4)⁴⁸. Two principal sources of this type of funding are the OP Infrastructure and Environment covering the whole country, and regional OPs that exist in each of the 16 Polish regions (voivodships). OP Infrastructure and Environment supports primarily investments in transport and environment sectors, while the regional programmes are more diversified in their scope. Nonetheless, all the regional OPs include environment and climate protection (directly or indirectly) among their objectives. The national-level RDP within the framework of the CAP is another EU-supported source of funding that can potentially be used for climate action, as it envisages the restructuring and development of rural areas, including through modernisation, renovation and development of renewable energy sources.

Various national sources of funding can also be used for climate initiatives. The National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management is the largest Polish financial institution supporting environment and climate. The Fund manages several financing programmes and acts as a representative of national and international initiatives, including the coordinating role in the emissions trading scheme. Similar institutions (regional funds) function on the regional level, with environmental objectives and priorities adjusted to the needs of each region. Furthermore, energy saving investments in the housing sector may receive support from the State Fund for Thermomodernisation and

⁴⁸ [European Commission, ESIF Data portal](#)

Renovation.

Moreover, Poland was the first country to issue state-level green bonds. The Ministry of Finance has coordinated the programme since 2016, evaluating the eligible investments and redistributing the proceeds from selling the bonds. Green bonds have so far been used only on the state level, but there is a potential for implementing this instrument also on the regional and local levels.

2.4 Spain

ESIF funds in Spain during the current financing period (2014-2020) amount to a total of EUR 56.3 billion, out of which 15% are invested in climate-related initiatives. More specifically, approximately EUR 6.3 billion are invested in low-carbon economy projects and around EUR 2.4 billion in climate adaptation and risk prevention⁴⁹. Among the funded programmes, the multi-regional ERDF appears as the one with the largest funding available for low-carbon initiatives, with over EUR 3.5 billion. A general overview of the Spanish OPs showed that climate change mitigation and adaptation, through investments in low-carbon economy and in environment, receive both a substantial share of the total budget. In the multi-regional programme (national scale, covering regions in transition), the investment in the transition to low-carbon economy reaches 38% of the total, while in individual regional programmes, such as Andalusia and the Basque country, the low carbon economy receives 12% and 25%, respectively.

At national level, climate finance in Spain has the Carbon Fund for a Sustainable Economy as its cornerstone and main funding line when it comes to climate mitigation. Through this programme, the Ministry for the Ecologic Transition supports the transition to a low-carbon economy by purchasing the emissions reduced by projects from a broad range of sectors, including agriculture, transport, housing, waste management or small industries.

Regarding climate adaptation, the Plans for Supporting the Environment (in Spanish 'PIMA') support projects to improve the climate resilience of ecosystems and nature-related sectors (agriculture-forestry). The Biodiversity Foundation, which runs its own line of funding under this initiative, supports project developers by providing expertise and guidance on project implementation and supporting the preparation of proposals in order to make a better use of EU funds.

⁴⁹ [European Commission, ESIF Data portal](#)

Additionally, Spain offers funding lines related to its obligations under the Energy Efficiency Directive. These are provided within different frameworks, such as the Programme for the Energy Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings, the Grants for Efficient Transport Modes, or the Plan for Renewing Street Lighting. Another programme supports industry, including SMEs, in the implementation of technological improvements and energy management systems.

3. Part 3: Policy recommendations

Accessing climate financing opportunities is key for meeting the investments needs required to transition to a low-carbon economy. Nonetheless, LRAs still face significant challenges in learning about and successfully applying for different EU funds and financing opportunities as evidenced by previous research and Part 2 of this study. Therefore, actions to address these challenges need to be strengthened at all levels of governance.

3.1 Recommendations for EU policy-makers

Enhance the advisory services about the available EU financing options

Informing potential beneficiaries, including LRAs, about the EU options available to finance climate action is critical especially in light of the foreseen changes to certain funding streams in the next MFF. Even though there are various tools available, they often focus on urban areas or cities. Developing similar support tools and advisory services targeted to LRAs in rural areas and the possibilities to finance climate action in non-urban areas could be one way to enhance the existing services.

Support the capacity building of LRAs with the available EU funds

Supporting capacity building and providing technical assistance is an important part of certain EU funds such as the ESIF. However, they are often focused on national administrations. Allowing these funds to support the capacity building and to finance technical assistance at regional or local levels of government could help LRAs develop their in-house capacities and expertise not only in relation to planning climate mitigation and adaptation actions, but also in relation to preparing successful applications for different EU funds, financial instruments and PDA.

Provide targeted training and advisory services on the use of financial instruments

The use of financial instruments will be further promoted in the next MFF. However, experience to date shows that LRAs can face additional obstacles when accessing these instruments⁵⁰. At the same time, the use of the existing

⁵⁰ CEMR, 2018; Ferrer, J. N. et al. 2017; and Rossi, L. Gancheva, M. and O'Brien, S. 2017.

financial instruments is not geographically balanced. Hence, providing targeted training, capacity building and advice to LRAs, especially in Member States that joined after 2004 and to date have less experience with the use of financial instruments, could enhance the uptake of these financing options.

Facilitate the use of different EU funds and financing options for investing in climate action

Climate action requires investments across sectors and policy areas and various EU funds can provide finance to support this. To optimise the use of the different funds and accelerate investments in mitigation and adaptation at the local level, LRAs should be able to combine different financing options available. Hence, rules for combining different EU funds, grants and other types of financing should be simplified as much as possible. Furthermore, grants are a critical source of financing for many EU LRAs and the possibilities to obtain financing for climate action in the form of grants should remain available in the next MFF.

3.2 Recommendations for national policy-makers

Provide additional advisory services and information about national funds for climate action

EU-level efforts to inform LRAs and other stakeholders about the possibilities to finance climate action could be enhanced by actions at the national level. Providing advisory services in the Member States could be an opportunity to advise LRAs about the different possibilities to obtain not only EU funds but also various financing available in each Member State. Such services could be more specific and complementary to the support tools available at the EU level and could help address specific needs in each country, including limited experience with using financial instruments or certain EU funds. In addition, such services could provide more concrete advice on how to support investments necessary in the given country and its socio-economic and geographical characteristics.

To support these actions, national authorities may need to play a coordination and monitoring role to ensure they have an up-to-date understanding of the climate finance landscape in their country.

Support the capacity building of LRAs

National efforts could complement the provision of capacity building and technical assistance to local and regional administrations. This could be particularly relevant for ESIF, which are under shared managed and for which each Member State decides how to spend the available funding for technical assistance and could decide to dedicate part of the available funding to training LRAs. In order to support local investments in climate action, it is important to ensure local and regional administrations have sufficient internal capacity to prepare, manage and monitor relevant projects.

3.3 Recommendations for LRAs

Make use of the available support tools and guidance

There is a range of EU and national financing options available to invest in climate and the low-carbon transition accompanied by a number of support tools and platforms aimed to provide information and advice how to access these funds. In addition to grants, finance for energy efficiency investments may be available through energy service companies (ESCOs). It is important that LRAs make use of the available support tools, guidance and possibilities to obtain PDA, to identify the different options available and select those most suitable to their particular local needs.

Be creative when using the available options for climate financing

There is a range of EU funds, national funds, financial instruments and other forms of financing that can be used to invest in climate action and meet the specific local needs related to the low-carbon transition. Many of these sources can be blended to support investments. LRAs should explore all possible options and even combine different sources of financing when possible in order to maximise the budget available to invest in climate action.

Annex 1: List of references

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Annex 2: Guidance on Interactive Funding Guide by the Covenant of Mayors

FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

for Sustainable Energy & Climate Action Plans

WWW.EUMAYORS.EU

Access to financing is key for transforming ambitious Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans into projects. Use the Covenant of Mayors 'Interactive Funding Guide' to learn more about funding and financing opportunities.

01 VISIT the Covenant of Mayors website

WWW.EUMAYORS.EU → SUPPORT → FUNDING

Search for available options using the **search box** and **filters** that will help you choose the type of financing you are interested in. Use **advanced search** options to get information on funding opportunities tailored for you.

European Structural and Investment Funds

Cohesion Fund

EAFRD

EMFF

European Funding Programmes

CEF

Horizon 2020

JPI Urban Europe

Project Development Assistance

EEEF

ELENA

Horizon 2020 PDA

Interactive funding guide

Support for	Support to	Country
SECAP development	Signatories	EU-28
SECAP implementation (soft measures, e.g. awareness raising, stakeholders' involvement)	Coordinators	Albania
SECAP implementation	Supporters	Andorra
	Academia	Armenia
		Austria
		Azerbaijan

02 SEARCH for available opportunities

03 CHOOSE the opportunity and CLICK on it to learn more

European Funding Programmes

CEF

Horizon 2020

Horizon 2020 SC3 Energy

Horizon 2020 SC5 Environment

Horizon 2020 SC2 Food & Bioeconomy

Horizon 2020 SC4 Transport

UIA

URBACT

Project Development Assistance

EEEF

ELENA

Horizon 2020 PDA

JASPERS

Horizon 2020 SC4 Transport

Support to:

- Signatories
- Coordinators
- Supporters
- Academia

Support for:

- SECAP development
- SECAP implementation (soft measures, e.g. awareness raising, stakeholders' involvement)
- SECAP implementation (hard measures)
- Hiring of experts / preparation of bankable projects

04 DOWNLOAD PDF with further details (bottom right corner) or follow the useful links

05 CHECK support tools and websites (under the drop-down menu) that can provide further guidance how to use the EU funds

Annex 3: Detailed tables of climate finance instruments

All weblinks listed below were functional as of 10 June 2019.

Annex 3.1: Belgium

Regional Operational Programmes

Name of funding line	REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES
General information	
Countries	Belgium
Responsible authority	Regional authorities in each of the three Belgian regions.
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Buildings ○ Energy ○ Waste ○ Land use planning <p>The different OPs support thematic objectives related to the low-carbon economy (TO4), climate change adaptation (TO5) and environmental protection (TO6) and can financing actions related to energy efficiency, resource efficiency and the circular economy, waste management and urban development.</p>
Funding information	
Type of funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grant ○ Technical assistance
Co-funding	Varies per OP and thematic objective, 18-36%
Project size (average)	Not available

Leverage factor	Not relevant
Project partners information	
Who can apply	Local and regional authorities, enterprises, NGOs, education institutions
Project partners criteria	Not relevant
Description	
Funds are dispersed through calls for proposals related to the thematic and specific objectives of each OP.	
Useful links	Brussels Capital Region: https://be.brussels/a-propos-de-la-region/bruxelles-internationale/feder-obtenir-une-aide-europeenne/programme-2014-2020 Flanders: https://www.vlaio.be/nl/andere-doelgroepen/europees-fonds-voor-regionale-ontwikkeling Wallonia: http://europe.wallonie.be/
Inspiring examples	Not available

Green Certificates

Name of funding line	GREEN CERTIFICATES
General information	
Countries	Belgium
Responsible authority	Shared management between the Federal and Regional authorities. At federal level, the Commission for the Regulation of Electricity and Gas (CREG) is the main authority for the granting of the certificates. At regional level, the respective authorities would be the Flemish Regulator for Electricity and Gas (VREG) for the Flemish Region, the Brussels Commission for the Regulation of the Gas and Electricity Market (BRUGEL) for Brussels-Capital and the Walloon Commission for Energy (CWaPE) for the Walloon Region.
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	Energy

Funding information	
Type of funding	Alternative financing schemes
Co-funding	Not relevant
Project size (average)	Not relevant
Leverage factor	Not relevant
Project partners information	
Who can apply	Owners of installations producing electricity from renewable energy sources in the three regions
Project partners criteria	Not relevant
Description	
<p>The Green Certificates are an instrument to promote low-carbon power generation. Producers of electricity from renewable energy sources have the possibility to obtain green certificates for the electricity they produce from renewable energy sources. A green certificate shows that a certain installation has generated a certain amount of electricity from a renewable energy source.</p> <p>Green certificates gain financial value when they are sold. A producer can sell its certificates to electricity suppliers or access holders, who need them to meet the annual quota obligation. Network operators are also obliged to purchase certificates at a fixed minimum price if the owner of the certificates so requests. This is also referred to as "minimum support". Only certificates that can be used for the quota obligation are eligible for this. Each certificate can only be sold once at minimum price. The minimum price shall be determined per certificate. The amount and the period during which the network operator buys certificates from a particular installation depends on the production technology used and on the date on which the installation is put into operation.</p>	
Useful links	<p>Federal: https://www.creg.be/nl/professionals/productie/offshore-windenergie/groenestroomcertificaten .</p> <p>Brussels-Capital Region: https://www.brugel.brussels/nl_BE/acces_rapide/hernieuwbare-energie-11/mechanisme-van-de-groenestroomcertificaten-35 and https://www.brugel.brussels/nl_BE/acces_rapide/hernieuwbare-energie-11/verkoop-van-de-groenestroomcertificaten-38</p> <p>Flemish Region: https://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/subsidi databank/vlaamse-groenestroomcertificaten-gsc and https://www.energiesparen.be/groene-energie-en-wkk/prof/steunregeling .</p> <p>Wallon Region: https://www.wallonie.be/fr/actualites/certificats-verts-les-mesures-du-gouvernement-contre-la-bulle-photovoltaique and http://crucke.wallonie.be/home/presse--actualites/publications/publication-presse--actualites-40.publicationfull.html</p>

Inspiring examples	No information
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BELESCO

Name of funding line	BELESCO
General information	
Countries	Belgium
Responsible authority	BELESCO
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Energy ○ Buildings
Funding information	
Type of funding	Energy performance contracting and energy supply contracting
Co-funding	n/a
Project size (average)	n/a
Leverage factor	n/a
Project partners information	
Who can apply	Buildings and tenants of buildings in the public and private sectors
Project partners criteria	n/a
Description	
BELESCO is the Belgian energy services association that supports and promotes the market development for energy services carrying out energy performance upgrades of buildings in the private and public sectors through energy performance contracting and/or energy supply contracting. Municipal and	

regional authorities can approach BELESCO members, including public energy services companies (ESCOs), to access funding for energy efficiency investments through energy performance contracting.	
Useful links	www.belesco.be
Inspiring examples	Fedimmo project, carried out with the Belgian Federal Building Agency aiming to upgrade the energy performance of federal buildings in Belgium, starting in 2016: https://guarantee-project.eu/be/2017/03/31/progress-fedimmo-epc-project-presented-during-belesco-networking-lunch/

Renovation Pact for Residential Buildings

Name of funding line	RENOVATION PACT FOR RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS
General information	
Countries	Belgium
Responsible authority	The Flemish Government in cooperation with various stakeholders.
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Energy ○ Buildings
Funding information	
Type of funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alternative financing schemes (e.g. tax reductions, lowering registration rights) ○ Premiums, both individual ones as collective premiums.
Co-funding	Not relevant
Project size (average)	Not relevant
Leverage factor	Not relevant
Project partners information	

Who can apply	Regional and local authorities, municipalities and organisations
Project partners criteria	Not relevant
Description	
<p>With the premium reform approved by the Flemish Government on 15 June 2016, a number of new premiums (e.g. for inner wall insulation and total renovation) are used to calculate the collective renovation projects ('the neighbourhood bonus') and provide financial support for process support for collective renovations. Different individual premiums were tightened in terms of the content requirements following a long-term objective. In addition, a phasing-out process was introduced that underlines the urgency to take effective action towards the citizens. In the longer term, there is a proposal as part of the 'Smart subsidies' to provide a user-friendly and digital access for the grant applicants. It is desirable in order to create a single desk that can handle the various premiums for renovation works together.</p>	
Useful links	<p>Homepage: https://www.energiesparen.be/renovatiepact</p> <p>Information through the Flemish government: https://www.vlaanderen.be/nbwa-news-message-document/document/090135578026ccc5</p>
Inspiring examples	Not available

Action Plan for School Buildings

Name of funding line	ACTION PLAN FOR SCHOOL BUILDINGS
General information	
Countries	Belgium
Responsible authority	The Flemish Government
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Energy ○ Buildings
Funding information	
Type of funding	Subsidies

Co-funding	Not available
Project size (average)	Not available
Leverage factor	Not available
Project partners information	
Who can apply	Municipalities and towns
Project partners criteria	Not relevant
Description	
The Flemish Government invests intensively in the renewal of the educational patrimony, both by means of the financing of new construction and renovation of the current facilities.	
Useful links	Homepage: https://www.vlaanderen.be/nbwa-news-message-document/document/0901355780248d71
Inspiring examples	Not available

Energy Renovation of Buildings (UREBA)

Name of funding line	ENERGY RENOVATION OF BUILDINGS (UREBA)
General information	
Countries	Belgium
Responsible authority	Wallonia energie SPW (Regional energy authority)
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	Buildings
Funding information	
Type of funding	Grant

Co-funding	UREBA grants are available for 30% of eligible costs (35% where the beneficiary has an active energy management policy in place for two years).
Project size (average)	Not available
Leverage factor	Not available
Project partners information	
Who can apply	Local authorities (provinces and communes), schools, police stations, not-for-profit organisations
Project partners criteria	Not relevant
Description	
<p>UREBA (Rénovation énergétique des bâtiments) grants aim to support investments in improving the energy performance of buildings in the public and not-for-profit sectors. Grants are available for works such as installation of systems using renewable energy sources (heat pumps, solar water heaters, biomass boilers), installation of district heating and cogeneration plants, thermal insulation works, upgrades of heating systems, upgrades of lighting installations, installation of other energy efficient equipment or systems. A minimum investment threshold of EUR 2,500 applies, which can be accumulated across more than one building. The grant can be blended with other public grants, but if these other grants amount to more than 40% of the total costs, then the co-financing will be calculated on the investment costs to the beneficiary minus the other grant(s).</p>	
Useful links	Homepage: https://energie.wallonie.be/fr/amelioration-de-la-performance-energetique-des-batiments.html?IDC=8969&IDD=83066
Inspiring examples	Not available

Annex 3.2: Italy

OP Infrastructure and Networks

Name of funding line	OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME INFRASTRUCTURE AND NETWORKS
General information	
Countries	Italy
Responsible authority	Shared management EU - Italy; Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure is the national Managing Authority.
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	Transport - the OP supports transport and covers TO7 ' <i>transport and energy networks</i> ' of the ESIF. One of the priorities (Axis II) of the plan is to develop and improve environmentally-friendly (including low-noise) and low-carbon transport systems.
Funding information	
Type of funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grants ○ Technical assistance
Co-funding	EU and national funding.
Project size (average)	There may be rules on project sizes established in the specific calls for proposals. In general, this OP supports projects of various sizes including very large projects.
Leverage factor	No
Project partners information	
Who can apply	Local and regional authorities, private companies (railways and port authorities); the list of potential beneficiaries may depend on a call. The Operational Program intervenes only in the Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Puglia and Sicily regions.
Project partners criteria	Not relevant

Description	
<p>Applications can be submitted in response to calls for proposals, which are announced on the website of the Programme. The calls for proposals relate to the specific investment priorities. Only so-called eligible costs can be covered with grants. The catalogue of such costs is specified for each type of project. Other (non-eligible) costs should be financed from the beneficiaries' own resources. Beneficiaries receive co-financing in the form of reimbursement for all or a part of the expenditures actually incurred or as a downpayment on account of the planned expenses.</p> <p>The types of projects that can be financed under Priority Axis II mainly consist of upgrading of port and railway infrastructure including their adaptation to the best environmental and energy operating standards.</p>	
Useful links	<p>General information about the OP: http://ponir.mit.gov.it/en/</p> <p>Information about on-going calls for proposals: http://ponir.mit.gov.it/documentazione/gestione-e-attuazione/bandi</p>
Inspiring examples	List of projects available at: http://ponir.mit.gov.it/interventi/elenco-interventi

OP Metropolitan Cities

Name of funding line	OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME METROPOLITAN CITIES
General information	
Countries	Italy
Responsible authority	Shared management EU-Italy; The Italian Agency for Territorial Cohesion is the national Managing Authority
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transport ○ Energy ○ Buildings <p>The OP supports investments for the sustainability of public services and urban mobility linked to TO4 '<i>low-carbon economy</i>' of the ESIF.</p>
Funding information	
Type of funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grants

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Technical assistance
Co-funding	EU and national funding.
Project size (average)	There may be rules on project sizes established in the specific calls for proposals. In general, this OP supports projects of various sizes including very large projects.
Leverage factor	No
Project partners information	
Who can apply	Local authorities, i.e. the 14 Italian metropolitan cities: Bari, Bologna, Cagliari, Catania, Firenze, Genova, Messina, Milano, Napoli, Palermo, Reggio Calabria, Roma, Torino, Venezia.
Project partners criteria	Not relevant
Description	
<p>Same rules apply as OP Infrastructure and Networks. Types of projects that can be supported include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ restructuring and energy conversion of public buildings; ○ conversion of public lighting to LED technology; ○ creation of pedestrian and cycle paths; ○ technological renewal and upgrading of local public transport fleets; ○ creation of protected lanes for TPL and modal interchange nodes. 	
Useful links	<p>General information about the OP: http://www.ponmetro.it/</p> <p>Information about on-going calls for proposals: http://www.ponmetro.it/home/ecosistema/open-data/opportunita-e-bandi/</p>
Inspiring examples	List of projects available at: http://www.ponmetro.it/home/ecosistema/open-data/

Regional Operational Programmes

Name of funding line	REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES
General information	

Countries	Italy
Responsible authority	Shared management between the EU and regional authorities. In most of the regions there a specific department within the regional government that plays the role of the Managing Authorities.
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Buildings ○ Energy ○ Water ○ Waste ○ Land use planning ○ Environment & biodiversity <p>The sectors and types of investments may differ depending on an OP but all regional OPs include investments linked to TO4 '<i>low-carbon economy</i>', TO5 '<i>climate change and risk prevention</i>' and TO6 '<i>environment and resource efficiency</i>'.</p>
Funding information	
Type of funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grants ○ Technical assistance
Co-funding	EU and regional funds. The EU contribution is 75% for less developed regions (Campania, Calabria, Sicilia, Basilicata, Sicilia (80%)) and 50% for more developed and regions in transitions.
Project size (average)	There may be rules on project sizes established in the specific calls for proposals.
Leverage factor	No
Project partners information	
Who can apply	Local and regional authorities, NGOs, private companies; the list of potential beneficiaries may depend on a call.
Project partners criteria	Not relevant
Description	
21 Regional OPs have been created in Italy. The general rules regarding the application are the same as for the OP Infrastructure and Networks, more	

detailed rules may differ depending on the OP.	
Useful links	<p>Links to all regional OPs: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/programmes?search=1&keywords=&periodId=3&countryCode=IT&regionId=ALL&objectiveId=ALL&ObjectiveId=ALL</p> <p>These links lead to the Managing Authority website, specific for each OP. These portals contain further information on calls for proposals, regional/local information points, types of projects which may be supported and rules for application.</p>
Inspiring examples	<p>Many examples of projects co-financed from EU funding within regional OPs can be found in the Open Coesione portal together with clear information about financing opportunities: https://opencoesione.gov.it/it/</p>

Rural Development Programme

Name of funding line	RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
General information	
Countries	Italy
Responsible authority	Shared management between the EU and the regional authorities. The Ministry of Agriculture is the national Managing Authority.
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Land use planning ○ Agriculture & forestry ○ Environment & biodiversity <p>One of the priority areas addressed by the RDP is '<i>resource efficiency and climate</i>'. Under this priority, the RDP supports investments to improve the efficient use of water resources through the irrigation infrastructure. The Programme pursues the objective of making more efficient use of the water resource, encouraging the restructuring and modernisation. This contributes to the sustainability of agricultural production by promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p>
Funding information	

Type of funding	Grants (reimbursement of costs)
Co-funding	Yes
Project size (average)	No information
Leverage factor	No
Project partners information	
Who can apply	Public bodies such as the Irrigation Authorities (efficient irrigation activities). The OP specifies that agricultural holdings will benefit of investments in irrigation infrastructure only indirectly (p. 210 of RDP)
Project partners criteria	Not relevant
Description	
<p>Potential beneficiaries should apply for funding within the specific calls for proposals announced on the websites of the regional governments. Support is granted in a form of reimbursement of a certain share of the eligible costs.</p> <p>The programme finances more efficient irrigation systems/infrastructure (measure 4.3.1 of the RDP): investments aimed at recovering the efficiency of existing infrastructures (networks and reservoirs), at the realization of new accumulations, as well as the reuse of waste-water for irrigation.</p>	
Useful links	<p>Rural Development Programme (European Rural Development Network website): https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/country/italy_en</p> <p>Rural Development Programme (National Rural Network website) : https://www.reterurale.it/psrn</p>
Inspiring examples	<p>A Decree of the Managing Authority on the outcome of the project selection process for measure 4.3.1 on irrigation investments lists the selected beneficiaries 'Decreto_approvazione_graduatoria_definitiva_PSRN_2014_2020_protocollo_n._14873_2019'</p>

Regional Rural Development programmes

Name of funding line	REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES
General information	

Countries	Italy
Responsible authority	Shared management between the EU and the regional authorities. The agricultural departments of the regional administrations play the role of the Managing Authorities.
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Land use planning ○ Agriculture & forestry ○ Environment & biodiversity <p>All RDP include a priority area on '<i>resource efficiency and climate</i>' with the aim to support the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture. Types of investments include support for the development of bioenergy and the use of agricultural and agro-industrial by-products, reducing emissions from agro-industrial activities and increasing carbon sequestration through forestry.</p>
Funding information	
Type of funding	Grants (reimbursement of costs)
Co-funding	Yes. EU contribution varies: around 60% for less developed regions and between 40 and 50% for more developed regions.
Project size (average)	No information
Leverage factor	No
Project partners information	
Who can apply	Most of the activities under the RDP offer support to farmers, but also public bodies such as the Irrigation bodies (efficient irrigation activities).
Project partners criteria	Not relevant
Description	
Potential beneficiaries should apply for funding within the specific calls for proposals announced on the RDP dedicated website. Support is granted in a form of reimbursement of a certain share of the eligible costs.	
Useful links	Regional Rural Development Programmes: https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/country/italy_en

Inspiring examples	No information
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National Fund for Energy Efficiency

Name of funding line	NATIONAL FUND FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY
General information	
Countries	Italy
Responsible authority	Ministry for Economic Development and the Ministry of Environment. The management of the Fund will be entrusted to Invitalia.
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Buildings ○ Energy <p>The National Energy Efficiency Fund - FNEE is an incentive that supports the implementation of interventions aimed at ensuring the achievement of national energy efficiency targets. Types of investment include making public services and infrastructures more efficient, including public lighting and energy upgrading of buildings.</p>
Funding information	
Type of funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Soft loans ○ Guarantees <p>The revolving fund is divided into a section for the granting of guarantees on financing transactions equal to 30% of the available resources (of which 30% reserved for interventions concerning district heating and cooling networks or plants) and in a section for the provision of subsidized loans equal to 70% of the available resources (of which 20% reserved for interventions in favor of Public Administrations).</p>
Co-funding	No information
Project size (average)	No information
Leverage factor	No information
Project partners information	

Who can apply	The fund is targeted at the public administration (in addition to private companies).
Project partners criteria	Not relevant
Description	
<p>Operating procedures for the application of projects will be presented by Invitalia, approved by a Ministerial decree and presented on the websites of the responsible authorities. The Fund supports energy efficiency measures implemented by companies, including Energy Service Companies, and by the Public Administration, on buildings, plants and production processes. Specifically, the interventions supported concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the reduction of energy consumption in industrial processes; ○ the construction and expansion of district heating networks; ○ making public services and infrastructures more efficient, including public lighting; ○ energy upgrading of buildings. 	
Useful links	Ministry of Economic Development: https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/energia/efficienza-energetica/fondo-nazionale-efficienza-energetica
Inspiring examples	No information

National Experimental Programme for Sustainable Home-School and Home-Work Mobility

Name of funding line	NATIONAL EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMME FOR SUSTAINABLE HOME-SCHOOL AND HOME-WORK MOBILITY
General information	
Countries	Italy
Responsible authority	Ministry of Environment.
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	Transport - the Programme foresees investments in sustainable mobility.
Funding information	
Type of funding	Grants

Co-funding	The projects are co-financed by the Ministry of the Environment and the Protection of the Territory and the Sea with a percentage not exceeding 60% of the total eligible costs.
Project size (average)	No information
Leverage factor	No
Project partners information	
Who can apply	The fund is targeted at local authorities in municipalities with more than 100,000 inhabitants. Priority is given to municipalities that have exceeded Pm10 and NOx levels.
Project partners criteria	Not relevant
Description	
<p>The Ministerial Decree n. 208 of 20 July 2016 approves the 'National Experimental Programme for Sustainable Home-School and Home-Work Mobility' and defines the methods for the presentation of projects.</p> <p>The Programme foresees investments 'the financing of projects, prepared by one or more local authorities and referring to a territorial area with a population greater than 100,000 inhabitants, aimed at encouraging sustainable mobility initiatives, including initiatives of piedibus, car-pooling, car-sharing, bike -pooling and bike-sharing, the creation of protected routes for travel, including collective and guided journeys, between home and school, on foot or by bicycle, laboratories and educational outings with sustainable means, education and road safety programs, reduction of traffic, pollution and parking of vehicles near schools or workplaces, also in order to counter problems arising from sedentary life. Such programs may include the free transfer of "mobility vouchers" to workers using sustainable transport'.</p>	
Useful links	Ministry of Environment: https://www.minambiente.it/notizie/programma-sperimentale-nazionale-di-mobilita-sostenibile-casa-scuola-e-casa-lavoro and https://www.minambiente.it/bandi/avviso-pubblico-programma-sperimentale-nazionale-di-mobilita-sostenibile-casa-scuola-e-casa
Inspiring examples	A Decree of the Ministry of Environment on the outcome of the call for projects lists the selected beneficiaries: https://www.minambiente.it/sites/default/files/archivio/allegati/mobilita_sostenibile/dm_17_10_2017_282.pdf

Sustainable Urban Mobility Incentive Programme

Name of funding line	SUSTAINABLE URBAN MOBILITY INCENTIVE PROGRAMME (PRIMUS)
General information	
Countries	Italy
Responsible authority	Ministry of Environment.
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	Transport - the Programme encourages and co-finances alternative urban mobility choices to the use of private cars, favouring the spread of forms of mobility with low environmental impact and vehicle sharing, as well as the propensity to change the habits and behaviour of citizens in favour of mobility sustainable.
Funding information	
Type of funding	Grants (<i>contributo a fondo perduto</i>)
Co-funding	No information
Project size (average)	No information
Leverage factor	No
Project partners information	
Who can apply	The fund is targeted at local authorities in municipalities with a population of no less than 50,000 inhabitants.
Project partners criteria	Not relevant
Description	
<p>The application forms are available on the Ministry website. The Programme has a budget of EUR 15 million for the co-financing of projects presented by the Municipalities that fall into one of the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ construction of new cycle paths capable of responding to the demand for home-school and home-work urban movements; ○ development of sharing mobility in urban areas; ○ development of mobility management activities at the offices of the State Administrations (central and peripheral offices), territorial administrations; 	

schools and universities.	
Useful links	Ministry of Environment: https://www.minambiente.it/notizie/programma-sperimentale-nazionale-di-mobilita-sostenibile-casa-scuola-e-casa-lavoro
Inspiring examples	No information

National Infrastructure Plan for Recharging Vehicles Powered by Electricity

Name of funding line	NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN FOR RECHARGING VEHICLES POWERED BY ELECTRICITY (PNIRE)
General information	
Countries	Italy
Responsible authority	Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	Transport - the Plan aims at defining the guidelines to ensure the unitary development of the service of charging of vehicles powered by electricity in the national territory through the realization of infrastructural networks for recharging and recovery interventions of the building heritage aimed at their development. For the financing of the Plan, a special fund was set up by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport.
Funding information	
Type of funding	Grants
Co-funding	Yes - up to a maximum of 50% of the costs incurred for the purchase and installation of the plants, of projects presented by Regions and local bodies related to the development of infrastructure networks for recharging under specific programme agreements.
Project size (average)	No information
Leverage factor	No

Project partners information	
Who can apply	Local and regional authorities.
Project partners criteria	Not relevant
Description	
<p>The regions stipulate agreements with the Ministry to define the types of projects according to the specific needs that will be financed. The following types of projects are financed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public recharging infrastructure; ○ Private recharging infrastructures accessible to the public (garages, parking facilities, etc.); ○ Private recharging infrastructures (incentives for the installation of infrastructure to individuals or condominiums). <p>The elements involved in the co-financing by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport are represented by the activities needed for the creation of a recharging network interoperable on the national territory. These elements are attributable to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ drafting of the installation plan; ○ design of top-up sites; ○ purchase and installation of the systems (including the works necessary for installation); ○ communication campaign aimed at providing information to users regarding the service offered. 	
Useful links	The text of the Plan available at: http://www.governo.it/sites/governo.it/files/PNire.pdf
Inspiring examples	Available at: http://www.mit.gov.it/mit/site.php?p=cm&o=vd&id=2717

National Cohesion and Development Fund 2014-2020

Name of funding line	NATIONAL COHESION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND 2014-2020	
General information		
Countries	Italy	
Responsible authority	Presidency of the Council of the Ministers and Inter-ministerial committee for economic planning (CIPE)	
Sectors and investments		
Sectors and types of investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Energy ○ Industry ○ Tourism ○ Environment <p>The national fund finances different actions some of which are relevant to adaptation to climate change: e.g. financing measures for the implementation of the national plan on hydrogeological instability, financing for the remediation of disused and polluted industrial areas, financing of the conservation of national cultural heritage, financing for restructuring works of school building.</p>	
Funding information		
Type of funding	Grant	
Co-funding	No	
Project size (average)	No information	
Leverage factor	No	
Project partners information		
Who can apply	Public bodies and utilities	
Project partners criteria	Not relevant	
Description		

The Development and Cohesion Fund (FSC) is, together with the European Structural Funds, the main financial instrument through which policies are implemented for the development of economic, social and territorial cohesion and the removal of economic and social imbalances. The following measures relevant for adaptation to climate change can be financed:

- Intervention measures against hydrogeological risk;
- Measures for the restoration of ecosystems;
- Measures for the protection and resilience of the cultural heritage;
- Measures for the adaptation of public structures in terms of resilience.

Useful links

<http://www.programmazioneeconomica.gov.it/2019/05/16/fondo-per-lo-sviluppo-e-la-coesione-2/>

Excerpt plan for the 2015-2020 National Intervention Plan against hydrogeological risk:

https://www.minambiente.it/sites/default/files/archivio/normativa/difesa_suolo/dd_501_22_11_17liguria.pdf

Remediation of polluted sites: http://www.camera.it/leg17/465?tema=bonifiche_dei_siti_contaminati

Excerpt plan 'Culture and Tourism': <http://www.programmazioneeconomica.gov.it/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Piano.pdf> and <https://opencoesione.gov.it/it/programmi/2016MBCSGFSC006/>

Calls for project for Rehabilitation interventions of school buildings <http://www.scuolaetecnologia.it/4756-2>

Inspiring examples

See links above.

INTERREG Programmes

Name of funding line	INTERREG PROGRAMMES
General information	
Countries	Italy and neighbouring countries
Responsible authority	Varies depending on the programme but generally is the regional authorities.
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Environment (ecosystems) ○ Transport

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Water ○ Tourism ○ Energy ○ Forestry <p>In Italy there are 6 Interreg A programmes on cross-border cooperation. Different types of investments can be financed in the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Protect the environment and promote the efficient use of resources ○ Multimodal system of sustainable transport ○ Blue Innovation ○ Safety and resilience ○ Protection and valorisation of cultural heritage ○ Sustainable maritime transport ○ Support the transition to a low carbon economy in all sectors ○ Sustainable mobility <p>In addition, Interreg B programme Alpine Space also finances several investments in climate change adaptation.</p>
Funding information	
Type of funding	Grant
Co-funding	Yes
Project size (average)	No information
Leverage factor	No
Project partners information	
Who can apply	Public administration and enterprises
Project partners criteria	Not relevant
Description	
<p>Applications can be submitted in response to calls for proposals, which are announced on the website of the Programme. The calls for proposals relate to the specific investment priorities. Only so-called eligible costs can be covered with grants. The catalogue of such costs is specified for each type of project. Other (non-eligible) costs should be financed from the beneficiaries' own resources. Beneficiaries receive co-financing in the form of reimbursement for all or a part</p>	

of the expenditures actually incurred or as a downpayment on account of the planned expenses.

Several types of measures can be financed:

- Protection of the territory from hydrogeological risk;
- Port and coastal infrastructures adaptation measures;
- Water resource management measures;
- Transport infrastructure adaptation measures;
- Measures relating to the protection of ecosystems;
- Measures to adapt the tourist offer;
- Measures to protect cultural heritage;
- Measures to safeguard biodiversity;
- Measures to adapt maritime transport infrastructures;
- Measures to prevent and alert environmental disasters;
- Energy efficiency measures.

Useful links

INTERREG - Italia-Malta <http://www.italiamalta.eu/it/programmazione-2014-2020.html>
INTERREG - Italia-Grecia <https://interreg.gr/en/#Welcome>
INTERREG - Italia-Croazia <https://www.italy-croatia.eu/>
INTERREG – Italia-Slovenia <http://www.ita-slo.eu/ita/>
INTERREG - Italia-Austria <http://www.interreg.net>
INTERREG – Italia-Svizzera <http://interreg-italiasvizzera.eu/>
INTERREG – Marittimo (ITA-FRA) <http://interreg-maritime.eu/it/web/>
INTERREG – Alcotra (ITA-FRA) <http://www.interreg-alcotra.eu/it>
INTERREG – AlpineSpace <http://www.alpine-space.eu/>

Inspiring examples

The websites of each programme (see above) showcases good examples of projects.

Annex 3.3: Poland

OP Infrastructure and Environment

Name of funding line	OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
General information	
Countries	Poland
Responsible authority	Shared management EU - Poland; Ministry of Investment and Development is the main Managing Authority; various institutions including the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Energy, the National Fund for Environmental Protection and the Centre for Coordination of Environmental Projects play a role of coordinating and implementing authorities.
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Buildings ○ Transport ○ Energy ○ Water ○ Waste ○ Land use planning ○ Environment & biodiversity <p>The OP supports primarily transport and environment sectors, covering several thematic objectives of the ESIF including TO4 (shift towards a low-carbon economy) and TO5 (climate change adaptation and risk prevention).</p>
Funding information	
Type of funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grants ○ Other instruments in the sectors of renewable energy generation and energy efficiency investments in enterprises and housing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Loans ○ Investment premium (depending on the effectiveness of the investment) ○ ESCO investments (Energy Saving Companies which recover their costs from energy savings)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Technical assistance
Co-funding	Combining various sources of funding, including national authorities of different levels, is possible. Up to 85% of the total eligible costs can be covered by grants (up to 80% in the Mazowieckie Region)
Project size (average)	There may be rules on project sizes established in the specific calls for proposals. In general, this OP supports projects of various sizes including very large projects.
Leverage factor	No
Project partners information	
Who can apply	Local and regional authorities, NGOs, private companies; the list of potential beneficiaries may depend on the specific call for proposals.
Project partners criteria	Not relevant
Description	
Applications can be submitted in response to calls for proposals, which are announced on the website of the Programme. The calls for proposals relate to the specific investment priorities. Only so-called eligible costs can be covered with grants. The catalogue of such costs is specified for each type of project. Other (not eligible) costs should be financed from the beneficiaries' own resources. Beneficiaries receive co-financing in the form of reimbursement for all or a part of the expenditures actually incurred or as a downpayment on account of the planned expenses.	
Useful links	<p>General information about the OP: https://www.pois.gov.pl/</p> <p>A list of regional information points: https://www.pois.gov.pl/strony/o-programie/punkty-informacyjne/#/</p> <p>Information about on-going calls for proposals: https://www.pois.gov.pl/strony/skorzystaj/nabory/#/domyslne=1</p>
Inspiring examples	Five project examples can be found in the following link: https://www.pois.gov.pl/strony/o-programie/projekty/przyklady-najciekawszych-projektow/

Regional Operational Programmes

Name of funding line	REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES
General information	
Countries	Poland
Responsible authority	Shared management between the EU and regional authorities. Self-governmental offices (<i>Zarząd Województwa</i>) play a role of the Managing Authorities, with various divisions of the self-governmental administrations being responsible for different topics or priorities. Other regional institutions such as regional funds for environmental protection play a role of implementing bodies.
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Buildings ○ Transport ○ Energy ○ Water ○ Waste ○ Land use planning ○ Agriculture & forestry ○ Environment & biodiversity <p>The sectors and types of investments may differ depending on an OP but all regional OPs include investments in energy efficiency, transport and environment.</p>
Funding information	
Type of funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grants ○ Technical assistance ○ Loans ○ Guarrantees ○ Alternative financing schemes <p>All the regional OPs provide grants; there may be other forms of support available depending on the specific arrangements in each OP.</p>
Co-funding	Combining various sources of funding, including national authorities of different levels, is possible. Up to 85% of the

	total eligible costs can be covered by grants (up to 80% in the Mazowieckie Region)
Project size (average)	There may be rules on project sizes established in the specific calls for proposals.
Leverage factor	No
Project partners information	
Who can apply	Local and regional authorities, NGOs, private companies; the list of potential beneficiaries may depend on a call.
Project partners criteria	Not relevant
Description	
<p>16 Regional OPs have been created in Poland, with EU budget of EUR 31.2 billion in total. Available financial means are used to reduce disparities in the development of regions belonging to the European Union. An additional OP with the EU budget of EUR 2 billion (Polska Wschodnia) was created for 5 regions of Eastern Poland: Lubelskie, Podlaskie, Podkarpackie, Świętokrzyskie, and Warmińsko-Mazurskie. The general rules regarding the application are the same as for the OP Infrastructure and Environment, more detailed rules may differ depending on the OP.</p>	
Useful links	<p>Links to all regional OPs: https://www.funduszeuropejskie.gov.pl/wszystkie-serwisy-programow/</p> <p>Link to the OP Eastern Poland: https://www.polskawschodnia.gov.pl/strony/o-programie/</p> <p>These links lead to the portals specific for each OP. These portals contain further information on calls for proposals, regional/local information points, types of projects, which may be supported and rules for application.</p>
Inspiring examples	<p>Many examples of projects co-financed from EU funding within regional OPs can be found in the following link: http://www.mapadotacji.gov.pl/projekty</p>

Rural Development Programme

Name of funding line	RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
General information	
Countries	Poland
Responsible authority	Shared management between the EU and the Polish authorities. The Ministry of Agriculture coordinates the Programme, with the Agency for Restructurisation and Modernisation of Agriculture acting as an implementing institution.
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Land use planning ○ Agriculture & forestry ○ Environment & biodiversity <p>One of the priority areas addressed by the RDP is '<i>Promotion of effective resource management and transition of the agricultural, food and forestry sectors to low-emission and climate change resilient economy</i>'. Activity 7 focuses on basic services and restructuring of rural areas – investments which can receive support within this activity include renewable energy installations.</p>
Funding information	
Type of funding	Grants (reimbursement of costs)
Co-funding	Up to 63.63% of the total eligible costs can be covered with grants.
Project size (average)	No information
Leverage factor	No
Project partners information	
Who can apply	Most of the activities under the RDP offer support to farmers; only Section III of the RDP lists municipalities among the potential beneficiaries – Activity 7 devoted to restructuring of rural areas is included in this section.
Project partners criteria	Not relevant

Description	
Potential beneficiaries should apply for funding within the specific calls for proposals announced on the websites of the regional self-governments (<i>sejmik województwa</i>). Support is granted in the form of reimbursement of a certain share of the eligible costs.	
Useful links	<p>Rural Development Programme – information brochure: https://www.arimr.gov.pl/fileadmin/pliki/Publikacje-biblioteka/PROW_2014-2020_12_2014.pdf</p> <p>Information about the Activity 7: https://www.arimr.gov.pl/pytania-i-wnioski-do-arimr/dzialanie-7-podstawowe-uslugi-i-odnowa-wsi-na-obszarach-wiejskich.html</p> <p>Executive order of the Ministry of Agriculture setting the rules for support from the RDP under the Activity 7: http://prawo.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20170001737/O/D20171737.pdf</p>
Inspiring examples	No information

National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management

Name of funding line	NATIONAL FUND FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND WATER MANAGEMENT (NFEP&WM)
General information	
Countries	Poland
Responsible authority	The National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (NF) is the largest Polish financial institution coordinating programmes in the area of environmental protection and climate action. The NF coordinates spending from several priority axes of the OP Infrastructure and Environment, it also plays a coordinating role in the emissions trading scheme in Poland (Green Investment Scheme according to Art. 17 of the Kyoto Protocol) and is the National Contact Point for the LIFE programme. The NF functions also as the National Coordinator of the Covenant of Mayors. Furthermore, the NF together with a network of regional funds for environmental protection and water management collects charges from the use of the environment by economic entities – these financial resources are used to provide subsidies, loans and other financial instruments to support environment- and climate friendly investments.
Sectors and investments	

Sectors and types of investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Buildings ○ Transport ○ Energy ○ Water ○ Waste ○ Protection of the atmosphere ○ Geology and mining ○ Adaptation to climate change ○ Protection of the earth surface ○ Protection of landscape ○ Environment & biodiversity ○ Ecological education ○ Expert opinions, scientific and research work <p>Energy efficiency and climate protection are the most important areas the National Fund has been dealing with in recent years.</p>
Funding information	
Type of funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Subsidies ○ Loans ○ Credits given by banks from the NFEP&WM funds ○ Subsidies to the interest rate of credits ○ Partial redemption of loans ○ Capital investment projects ○ Subsidies to the interest rate or to the buyout price of bonds ○ Partial repayment of capital of the credit
Co-funding	Depending on the programme and the financial instrument
Project size (average)	No information
Leverage factor	Depending on the programme and the financial instrument
Project partners information	
Who can apply	Potential beneficiaries include companies, individuals, NGOs, and local authorities.

Project partners criteria	Depending on the programme and the financial instrument
Description	
Priority Programmes are the basis for accepting and examining applications for co-financing by the National Fund. The programmes specify the rules of support and project selection criteria. In most programmes, continuous calls for applications are organized.	
Useful links	Financing programmes: http://nfosigw.gov.pl/oferta-finansowania/
Inspiring examples	Priority programme on climate adaptation: http://nfosigw.gov.pl/oferta-finansowania/srodki-krajowe/programy-priorytetowe/przeciwdzialanie-zagrozeniom-srodowiska/

Regional Funds for Environmental and Water Management

Name of funding line	REGIONAL FUNDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND WATER MANAGEMENT
General information	
Countries	Poland
Responsible authority	Regional funds for environmental protection and water management function in each of the 16 regions of Poland. They act as self-governmental legal entities established in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act. The funds collect charges for use and pollution of the environment and make these financial resources available for environmental investments.
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Air quality ○ Water management ○ Waste management ○ Energy efficiency ○ Environment & biodiversity ○ Environmental education <p>Each of the 16 funds may have slightly different priorities that are adjusted to the specific needs of each region.</p>
Funding information	

Type of funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grants ○ Loans, including loans with partial remittance of debt ○ Alternative financing schemes <p>The type of funding may differ in the different funds.</p>
Co-funding	Combining various sources of funding is possible.
Project size (average)	No information
Leverage factor	The level of support depends on the programme or a scheme.
Project partners information	
Who can apply	Self-governmental authorities and their associations, budget entities, companies, NGOs.
Project partners criteria	No information
Description	
Each regional fund coordinates several programmes and establishes a priority list of investments. Each of the programmes may have different rules regarding co-financing, selection criteria etc. In some programmes the applications may be submitted continuously, in others there may be specific calls for proposals organized within a specific timeframe.	
Useful links	<p>Financial support possibilities in the regional fund in Wrocław: https://wfosigw.wroclaw.pl/zloz-wniosek</p> <p>Priority list of investments which can receive support from the regional fund in Wrocław: https://wfosigw.wroclaw.pl/files/download_pl/1078_lista-przedsiwziec-priorytetowych-wfosigw-we-wroclawiu-planowanych-do-dofinansowania-w-2019-roku.pdf</p>
Inspiring examples	No information

Fund for Thermomodernisation and Renovation

Name of funding line	FUND FOR THERMOMODERNISATION AND RENOVATION
General information	
Countries	Poland
Responsible authority	Fund for Thermomodernisation and Renovation is a state fund that is managed by the Bank of National Economy (Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego, BGK). Several other banks act in cooperation with the BGK and offer support from this programme.
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Buildings ○ Energy
Funding information	
Type of funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Partial refund of a commercial credit ○ Compensation premium (for owners of social apartments)
Co-funding	Up to 20% of commercial credit can be refunded
Project size (average)	No information
Leverage factor	No information
Project partners information	
Who can apply	Beneficiaries are owners of multi-dwelling units, owners and administrators of all other housing facilities and local government units with the exception of local government budgetary enterprises.
Project partners criteria	No information
Description	
The Fund supports investments in buildings or in energy sources used for heating which will result in energy saving. The beneficiaries apply for support in the BGK or in one of the cooperating banks. They can receive up to 20% reimbursement of the commercial credit taken for the financing of the investment.	

Useful links	<p>Information about the rules: https://www.bgk.pl/samorzady/fundusze-i-programy/fundusz-termomodernizacji-i-remontow/</p> <p>A list of cooperating banks: https://www.bgk.pl/samorzady/fundusze-i-programy/fundusz-termomodernizacji-i-remontow/</p>
Inspiring examples	No information

Green Bonds

Name of funding line	GREEN BONDS
General information	
Countries	Poland
Responsible authority	The programme of state Green Bonds is coordinated by the Ministry of Finance; local governments can also issue green bonds in cooperation with banks.
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transport ○ Energy ○ Water ○ Waste ○ Agriculture & forestry ○ Environment & biodiversity <p>Various types of investments can be proposed to be included in a green bond scheme as long as they contribute to environmental protection and/or climate. Typical undertakings are in the area of renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable transport and preventing deforestation.</p>
Funding information	
Type of funding	Alternative financing schemes: green bonds
Co-funding	No information

Project size (average)	No information
Leverage factor	No
Project partners information	
Who can apply	So far, the programme of green bonds exists only on the national level. According to the recommendation of the European Financial Congress, Polish public investors including regions and municipalities should consider using green bonds to finance projects focusing on sustainable development and climate adaptation.
Project partners criteria	No information
Description	
<p>The Ministry of Finance identifies potential projects for the national programme of Green Bonds based on a budgetary expenditure plan - underlying projects are tested for eligibility according to the Green Bond Framework. Approved eligible costs to be funded/refunded to the investors by the Green Bond proceeds are kept on a dedicated account. Annual reports provide information about the utilisation of the proceeds and a dedicated website shows the full allocation of funds. The Ministry of Finance issued the first green bond in December 2016. Since then there have been two more rounds. The Polish green bonds have received very good evaluations of financial institutions. LRAs could follow this example or the examples available from other countries (e.g. France or Sweden), where municipalities have issued green bonds to finance environmentally-friendly investments.</p>	
Useful links	<p>DNB Polska is one of the largest banks in Poland which declares being interested in managing of green bonds for local authorities: https://www.dnb.pl/pl/branze-i-sektory/sektor-publiczny/</p> <p>Recommendation of the European Financial Congress regarding development of green bonds market in Poland: https://www.efcongress.com/sites/default/files/rekomendacja_ekf_2018_przyszlo_zielonych_obligacji_w_polsce_0.pdf</p>
Inspiring examples	No information

Annex 3.4: Spain

Multiregional OP

Name of funding line	MULTIREGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME
General information	
Countries	Spain – Regions in transition (Andalusia, Canary Islands, Castilla-La Mancha, Murcia, Melilla)
Responsible authority	Ministry of Finance
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Land use planning ○ Rehabilitation of urban areas <p>The Programme's priorities related to climate change are 'Support the transition towards a low carbon economy' by boosting energy efficiency in enterprises, houses and public infrastructures; the production, distribution and use of renewable energy; support for multimodal sustainable urban mobility; research and innovation in low carbon technologies.</p>
Funding information	
Type of funding	Grants
Co-funding	Various co-funding options possible
Project size (average)	No information
Leverage factor	Not relevant
Project partners information	
Who can apply	Local and regional authorities, enterprises (including SMEs), education institutions and research centres
Project partners criteria	Not relevant

Description	
Applications can be submitted in response to calls for proposals. Only so-called eligible costs can be covered with grants.	
Useful links	<p>EU website: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/programmes/2014-2020/spain/2014es16rfop002</p> <p>Spanish website on these funds: http://www.dgfc.sepg.hacienda.gob.es/sitios/DGFC/es-ES/Paginas/inicio.aspx</p> <p>OP published by Spain: http://www.dgfc.sepg.hacienda.gob.es/sitios/dgfc/es-ES/ipr/fcp1420/p/Prog_Op_Plurirregionales/Documents/PO_Plurirregional_de_Espa%C3%B1a-V6.2.pdf</p> <p>Criteria and procedures for Operation Selection including a list of selected projects: http://www.dgfc.sepg.hacienda.gob.es/sitios/dgfc/es-ES/ipr/fcp1420/gf/feder/cs/Documents/CPSO-POPE_Noviembre.pdf</p>
Inspiring examples	<p>Full list of projects funded under this line: http://www.dgfc.sepg.hacienda.gob.es/sitios/dgfc/es-ES/loFEDER1420/porFEDER/Documents/LO-PE.pdf</p>

Regional Operational Programmes

Name of funding line	REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES
General information	
Countries	Spain – specific regions
Responsible authority	Ministry of Finance and relevant regional administrations
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Land use planning ○ Rehabilitation of urban areas ○ Energy ○ Nature (adaptation and restoration) <p>The topics covered depend on the region. For instance, the Andalusian Programme's priorities related to climate change foresee that the low-carbon economy is expected to receive 12% of the funds and the environment another</p>

	14% (often linked to adaptation projects). In the Basque Country Programme the priorities related to climate change are 'Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors' through investments in production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources, support to energy efficiency, smart energy management; and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, as well as promotion of sustainable mobility (25,91%). Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management by addressing risks related to flood and forest fires is another objective (5,40%).
Funding information	
Type of funding	Grants
Co-funding	Various co-funding options possible
Project size (average)	No information
Leverage factor	Not relevant
Project partners information	
Who can apply	Local and regional authorities, enterprises (including SMEs), education institutions and research centres
Project partners criteria	Not relevant
Description	
Applications can be submitted in response to calls for proposals. Only so-called eligible costs can be covered with grants.	
Useful links	<p>EU website: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/programmes/2014-2020/spain/2014es16rfop003</p> <p>ERDF website in Andalusia: https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/economiainnovacionyciencia/fondoseuropeosenandalucia/feder.php</p> <p>Regional website in the Basque Country: http://www.euskadi.eus/web01-a2ogaeko/es/contenidos/informacion/pre_2014_2020/es_def/index.shtml</p>
Inspiring examples	<p>Full list of projects funded under this line in Andalusia: http://www.dgfc.sepg.hacienda.gob.es/sitios/dgfc/es-ES/loFEDER1420/porFEDER/Documents/LO-PE.pdf</p> <p>Full list of projects funded under this line in the Basque Country: http://www.euskadi.eus/contenidos/informacion/pre_2014_2020/es_def/adjuntos/Programa-Operativo-del-Pais-</p>

Carbon Fund for a Sustainable Economy

Name of funding line	CARBON FUND FOR A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY
General information	
Countries	Spain
Responsible authority	The Carbon Fund for a Sustainable Economy (Fondo de Carbono para una Economía Sostenible (FES-CO ₂)) is managed by the Ministry for the Ecologic Transition.
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agriculture ○ Transport ○ Housing ○ Waste management ○ Fluorinated gases ○ Industry (preferably small) ○ Mining <p>The latest call for proposals (2019) allows also projects related to emissions trading (energy, including renewables). Projects related to forestry and carbon sinks are not eligible under this funding line.</p>
Funding information	
Type of funding	<p>Purchase of verified emission reductions - the funds are used to buy the emissions reduced by the projects implemented by the promoters, who must sign a contract for 'selling' their verified emission reductions during the 4 years after the contract signature. This contract also establishes the maximum volume of emissions that will be purchased by the funding line. The price paid per ton of CO₂ reduced is EUR 9.7.</p> <p>This programme aims at funding projects that would not take place without the existence of this funding line, therefore, projects which are already in place or about to start are not eligible for these funds.</p>

Co-funding	Projects are allowed to receive co-funding from other programs.
Project size (average)	<p>There is no minimum volume of emissions reductions necessary to apply for these funds, however, when deciding which projects will be supported, those with a significant emission reduction potential will be preferred. Innovative projects with lower emission reduction potential might also be chosen.</p> <p>This funding line allows applicants to present '<i>Programs of activities</i>' that gather similar small-size projects that would not be feasible individually and would face high administrative costs linked to the verification of the emissions, but that by sharing these costs could improve their individual financial feasibility.</p>
Leverage factor	No
Project partners information	
Who can apply	There are no restrictions on the participants in this programme. Both private and public organizations can apply, including local and regional authorities. It is even possible to present multiple projects by a single promoter.
Project partners criteria	No information was found on that, it is presumed that consortiums can be established, as long as the projects take place in Spain.
Description	
<p>The volume of emissions reduced by a project are bought by the funding line. The fund does not cover a share of the total investment or matches any private funds, but rather buys emissions offset by the project at the pre-arranged price (EUR 9.7/tonne CO₂).</p> <p>The promoters have to present a brief summary of their projects upon the call made by the Carbon Fund (a single call is foreseen in 2019, which closed in April 2019). The funding authority makes a pre-selection of projects, whose promoters are requested to provide a final proposal. Once the funding authority has selected the winning proposals, the promoter has to sign a contract for selling the verified emission reductions generated by the project during the following 4 years. The promoters must monitor the projects' performance based on guidance prepared by the funding organisation. Once the monitoring reports are verified, the funding organisation pays the agreed quantities to the promoters for the emissions reduced by the projects.</p>	
Useful links	<p>Webpage of the fund: https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/cambio-climatico/temas/proyectos-clima/que-es-un-proyecto-clima/default.aspx</p> <p>Detailed information on how to apply for these funds: https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/cambio-climatico/temas/proyectos-clima/1informacionbasicaconvocatoria2019_tcm30-489595.pdf</p> <p>Presentation (in English) by an Officer from the Ministry which explains some aspects of this programme:</p>

	https://www.transportenvironment.org/sites/te/files/Spanish%20Government%20-%20Proyectos%20clima%20%28emission%20reduction%20projects%20program%29.pdf
Inspiring examples	<p>Full list of projects chosen in 2018: https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/cambio-climatico/temas/proyectos-clima/listadodeproyectosyprogramasclimaseleccionados2018_tcm30-487493.pdf</p> <p>LRA examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Valencia Municipal Authority: development of an organic waste collection system, including composting facilities; - Regional energy authority of Castilla-Leon: replacement of current working vehicles for electric ones; - Pamplona Regional Authority: replacement of bus for electric vehicles; - Several district heating projects (Asturias, Madrid, Castilla-Leon); - Soria Municipal Authority: replacement of domestic boilers by biomass-based models.

Plans for Supporting the Environment

Name of funding line	PLANS FOR SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENT
General information	
Countries	Spain
Responsible authority	The Plans for Supporting the Environment (Planes De Impulso Al Medio Ambiente (PIMA)) are managed by the Ministry for the Ecologic Transition.
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	<p>Adaptation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Freshwater o Coasts o National parks (biodiversity, invasive species) o Ecosystems (agriculture-forestry) o Biodiversity Foundation (another funding line, further detailed below). <p>The instrument can support also mitigation measures but local and regional authorities are not eligible for mitigation projects from this funding line, only adaptation-related activities as these authorities are involved in the management of e.g. national parks.</p>

Funding information	
Type of funding	Loans - while there is not much information about the specific functioning of these plans, the Ministry's website mentions that the funds are used by the regions in the form of financial loans.
Co-funding	Allowed, this is a tool to support adaptation projects, co-funding is regarded as a strength for these projects.
Project size (average)	Not detailed
Leverage factor	No information
Project partners information	
Who can apply	Adaptation projects are, due to their nature, mostly run by public or semi-public entities, including local and regional authorities. Restrictions mainly apply to mitigation projects.
Project partners criteria	Partners are usually from the same region where the (adaptation) project is applied, due to their local nature.
Description	
The Ministry's website explains in detail what the projects are supposed to tackle and provides several examples of successful projects (below in 'inspiring examples'). The process for applying to these funds is not clarified and will be detailed once the call for 2019 is opened (no information is available on the dates yet).	
Useful links	<p>General site for PIMA plans: https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/cambio-climatico/planes-y-estrategias/PIMAS.aspx</p> <p>PIMA for adaptation projects: https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/cambio-climatico/planes-y-estrategias/PIMA-Adapta.aspx</p>
Inspiring examples	<p>Ecosystems: https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/cambio-climatico/planes-y-estrategias/PIMA-Adapta%20Ecosistemas.aspx</p> <p>Natural parks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amphibians: https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/red-parques-nacionales/red-seguimiento/pima-adapta/PIMA-habitats-anfibios.aspx - Forestry: https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/red-parques-nacionales/red-seguimiento/pima-adapta/PIMA-gestion-forestal.aspx - River restoration: https://www.miteco.gob.es/eu/agua/temas/delimitacion-y-restauracion-del-dominio-publico-hidraulico/estrategia-nacional-restauracion-rios/Plan-PIMA-Adapta-Proy-Rest-Rio-Manzanares.aspx

Funds under the Biodiversity Foundation

Name of funding line	FUNDS UNDER THE BIODIVERSITY FOUNDATION	
General information		
Countries	Spain	
Responsible authority	These funds are managed by the Biodiversity Foundation, which is part of the Ministry for the Ecologic Transition.	
Sectors and investments		
Sectors and types of investments	Mainly adaptation projects on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Biodiversity ○ Water ○ Waste ○ Land use planning ○ Agriculture & forestry 	
Funding information		
Type of funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Loans ○ Grants This funding line is linked to the previous one (PIMA plans), implementing or providing assistance to the promoters of some of the plans included in PIMA. Another service included by this funding programme is providing information and guidance about the use of EU funds for biodiversity to national organisations.	
Co-funding	Allowed.	
Project size (average)	The projects' restrictions differ in each of the different calls published, but in general, there is no minimum size required to apply. During the selection process, however, priority is usually given to projects that do a better use of the funds, in which area coverage might be a factor.	
Leverage factor	No information	
Project partners information		
Who can apply	The target participants change between the different calls, but most of the adaptation projects are done by either	

	NGOs or LRAs as the authorities managing the natural resources, which are most frequently addressed by this funding line.
Project partners criteria	All the promoters must be Spanish organisations and the projects must be implemented in Spain. However, foreign partners are allowed (e.g. consultants).
Description	
<p>This foundation has a double function:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It facilitates the utilisation of EU funds by Spanish organisations and enterprises, serving as bridge between the Ministry and the EU-run funding lines and developing guidelines for improving projects applications to the different EU programs (e.g. LIFE, ERDF). ○ Additionally, the Foundation directly manages part of the Ministry's funds through several plans and programs, addressing biodiversity but also climate and other environmental issues (including some of the PIMA plans above). <p>The application process differs for every programme, therefore, it is important to regularly consult the list of calls for proposals (link below).</p>	
Useful links	<p>Official list of calls: https://fundacion-biodiversidad.es/en/open-calls/calls-aid</p>
Inspiring examples	<p>Carbon footprint on public works (hueCO₂): http://hueco2.tecniberia.es/</p> <p>Platform on Adaptation to Climate Change (Plataforma AdapteCCa) serving as information-sharing platform for experts to exchange data on climate change impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation projects: https://fundacion-biodiversidad.es/es/prensa/recursos-multimedia/plataforma-adaptecca - https://www.adaptecca.es/</p> <p>Iniciativa Adapta (gathering several municipal/regional adaptation plans, covering multiple sectors): https://fundacion-biodiversidad.es/es/cambio-climatico-y-calidad-ambiental/proyectos-convocatoria-ayudas/adapta-biofilia - https://fundacion-biodiversidad.es/es/cambio-climatico-y-calidad-ambiental/proyectos-convocatoria-ayudas/proyecto-adapta-granada</p> <p>Seabed mapping project in the Mediterranean basin: https://fundacion-biodiversidad.es/es/prensa/actualidad/gracias-intemares-obtenemos-informacion-cientifica-sin-precedentes-de-los-fondos</p>

Programme for the Energy Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings

Name of funding line	PROGRAMME FOR THE ENERGY REHABILITATION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS
General information	
Countries	Spain
Responsible authority	Institute for Diversification and Saving of Energy (IDAE), which is an agency of the Ministry of Ecological Transition.
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Buildings ○ Energy <p>This funding line covers projects for improving energy efficiency of existing buildings by improving their thermal insulation, but also their electricity and heating installations. It also allows investments on substituting exiting installations of traditional energies by geothermal or solar (thermal) solutions.</p>
Funding information	
Type of funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grants ○ Loans <p>Types of projects and % of their budget covered by grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improvement of thermal insulation: 30% ○ Improvement of energy installations: 20% ○ Replacement of traditional energy by solar thermal power: 30% ○ Replacement of traditional energy by geothermal: 30% <p>In addition, promoters can apply for loans covering the 60-70% of the project costs at 0% interest rate, and reimbursable in up to 12 years.</p>
Co-funding	ERDF co-funding allowed
Project size (average)	EUR 30,000 – 4,000,000
Leverage factor	No information

Project partners information	
Who can apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Owners of any building, public or private (including LRAs) ○ Commonholds/ co-ownerships of multi-apartment buildings ○ Companies offering energy services
Project partners criteria	Not relevant
Description	
<p>Projects must improve the energy performance certificate of the entire building in at least 1 letter based on the EU scale A-G. Additional funds can be granted to those projects which improve the certificate in more than two letters or that reach A or B level. More than one type of actions can be performed to achieve this (insulation, energy efficiency measures and transition to biomass energy). These additional funds raise the share of the grants available (as shown above), and are assessed on a case-by-case approach, depending on the regions where projects are located (this is particularly relevant for the link with ERDF funds).</p>	
Useful links	<p>Call for proposals: https://www.idae.es/ayudas-y-financiacion/para-rehabilitacion-de-edificios-programa-pareer/segunda-convocatoria-del</p>
Inspiring examples	<p>Examples in housing and hotels sectors: https://www.idae.es/ayudas-y-financiacion/programa-de-ayudas-para-la-rehabilitacion-energetica-de-edificios-existent/ejemplos-de-actuaciones-cofinanciadas-con-feder-programa-pareer</p>

Grants for Efficient Transport Modes

Name of funding line	GRANTS FOR EFFICIENT TRANSPORT MODES
General information	
Countries	Spain
Responsible authority	Institute for Diversification and Saving of Energy (IDAE)
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	Transport - this funding line allows to cover:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sustainable commuting plans with a minimum reduction of 5% of the energy consumption of the organisation ○ Fleet auditing and implementation of management strategies that allow energy reduction of at least 5% ○ Efficient driving courses (minimum 200 alumni)
Funding information	
Type of funding	Grants - the share covered by these grants is 30% of the projects for the first to categories, up to EUR 200,000 and EUR 100 per alumni, up to EUR 100,000 for the last category.
Co-funding	Co-funding by ERDF is allowed
Project size (average)	Specified above
Leverage factor	No information
Project partners information	
Who can apply	All type of entities, including local and regional authorities
Project partners criteria	Not relevant
Description	
<p>The proposals must be presented through the electronic platform of the funding organism (IDAE). The specific content of each application varies depending on the category of the project. Applications should provide details about the content of the programme and its foreseen impact. The maximum execution time allowed for the projects is 12 months, which can be prolonged to 18 months in cases where unforeseen and justified reasons arise.</p>	
Useful links	<p>Electronic platform: https://sede.idae.gob.es/lang/tramitesyservicios/modulo/?id=8a94eeb258fc76740158fc9fbb2b0005</p> <p>Calls for proposals: https://www.idae.es/ayudas-y-financiacion/para-movilidad-y-vehiculos/programa-de-ayudas-para-actuaciones-de-cambio-modal/segunda-convocatoria-del-programa-de-ayudas-para-actuaciones-de-cambio-modal-y-uso-mas-eficiente-0</p>
Inspiring examples	<p>Media information about the funding line: https://www.zabala.es/es/noticias/idae-ha-gestionado-413-millones-en-ayudas-para-eficiencia-energ%C3%A9tica</p> <p>Some examples of efficiency driving courses funded by this initiative:</p>

	http://ducco.es/proximo-curso-conduccion-eficiente-para-conductores-de-vehiculos-pesados-de-transporte-por-carretera/ https://spedionslu.es/spedion-oferta-cursos-gratuitos-de-formacion-en-conduccion-eficiente-a-traves-de-autoescuela-valdeorras/
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Plan for Renewing Street Lighting

Name of funding line	PLAN FOR RENEWING STREET LIGHTING
General information	
Countries	Spain
Responsible authority	Institute for Diversification and Saving of Energy (IDAE)
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	Street lighting in municipalities
Funding information	
Type of funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Loans - loans at 0% interest, reimbursable in up to 10 years. No commission, study or cancelation costs ○ Technical assistance
Co-funding	Co-funding allowed with ERDF
Project size (average)	From EUR 300,000 to EUR 4,000,000
Leverage factor	No information
Project partners information	
Who can apply	Local and Regional authorities
Project partners criteria	Not relevant
Description	

<p>These funds come from the National Fund of Energy Efficiency, collected within the framework of the Energy Efficiency Directive, through participations of the actors involved in the Spanish market of energy sale and distribution. Eligible projects are those that achieve a reduction in CO₂ emissions and final energy consumption through an improvement of energy efficiency of at least 30%. This programme focuses on the substitution of existing public lighting technologies by more efficient ones, requiring that the replacing bulbs achieve an energy score of A or B.</p>	
Useful links	<p>Last call for proposals: https://www.idae.es/en/node/10739</p> <p>Presentation of proposals: https://sede.idae.gob.es/lang/modulo/?refbol=tramites-servicios&refsec=programa-ayudas-alumbrado</p> <p>Additional information: https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2017/04/08/pdfs/BOE-A-2017-3904.pdf</p>
Inspiring examples	<p>Full list of approved projects (specifying location, date and budget): https://tramitador.idae.gob.es/egovOV-web/app/listadoFavorable-flow;jsessionid=77O0dmGOZ6s-P+orOEC90FiH.node2?execution=e1s1</p>

Programme for Supporting SME and Large Industry

Name of funding line	PROGRAMME FOR SUPPORTING SME AND LARGE INDUSTRY
General information	
Countries	Spain
Responsible authority	Institute for Diversification and Saving of Energy (IDAE), which is an agency of the Ministry of Ecological Transition.
Sectors and investments	
Sectors and types of investments	<p>Energy - this funding line covers two types of investments for SMEs and industry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improvements in technology and industrial processes (investment from EUR 75,000 to EUR 50,000,000) ○ Establishment of energy management systems (investment from EUR 30,000 to EUR 5,000,000)
Funding information	
Type of funding	Grants – the maximum share of the investment covered by these funds is 30% of the total budget of each project. Funding projects at SME-level has a maximum budget of EUR 200,000 per project. Finance from ERDF can support up to 50% of the remaining costs.

Co-funding	Co-funding by ERDF
Project size (average)	Specified above
Leverage factor	No information
Project partners information	
Who can apply	Private companies*
Project partners criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Partners from the same country ○ Partners from different countries
Description	
<p>These funds are linked to the Member State obligations under the Energy Efficiency Directive, contributions are collected from the parties that are required to contribute according to Spanish legislation (energy sellers and distributors). The application process requires filling a template, developing a technical proposal, including energetic auditing of the project, and providing different administrative documents that allow the authorities to identify the profile of the company (SME or large company).</p>	
Useful links	Call for proposals: https://www.idae.es/gl/node/10431
Inspiring examples	General figures of the investment budgeted per sector (SME and large companies): https://tramitador.idae.gob.es/egovOV-web/descarga/PublicacionServlet?codProcedimiento=PGESI

Note: *Information was not found whether publicly owned companies (e.g. utilities and/or transport companies) or companies within public-private partnerships might also be eligible for funding under this programme.

Annex 3.5: Guidance on climate finance options at national level



Financing Climate Action

Options available to local and regional authorities

In addition to the EU funding options that can support climate action (see Covenant of Mayors interactive funding guide), there are different finance instruments available at national level. The report 'Financing climate action (part 2): cities and regions investing in energy' looked into the options available to local and regional authorities to finance climate action measures such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable transport or adaptation in Belgium, Italy, Poland and Spain.

BELGIUM

See Section 2.1 and Annex 3.1 of the Report

- REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES 🏠 ⚡ 🌳 🌊
- GREEN CERTIFICATES ⚡
- BELESCO 🏠 ⚡
- RENOVATION PACT FOR RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (FLEMISH REGION) 🏠 ⚡
- ACTION PLAN FOR SCHOOL BUILDINGS (FLEMISH REGION) 🏠 ⚡
- ENERGY RENOVATION OF BUILDINGS – UREBA (WALLOON REGION) 🏠

- 🏠 BUILDINGS
- ♻️ WASTE
- 🚗 TRANSPORT
- 🌳 LAND USE/AGRICULTURE/FORESTRY
- 🌊 ENVIRONMENT/NATURE/BIODIVERSITY
- 💧 IRRIGATION/WATER
- 🏭 INDUSTRY/MINING
- ☁️ AIR QUALITY
- ☀️ CLIMATE PROTECTION
- ⚡ RENEWABLE ENERGY/ENERGY
- 📡 STREET LIGHTING

ITALY

See Section 2.2 and Annex 3.2 of the Report

- NATIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND NETWORKS 🚗
- NATIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME METROPOLITAN CITIES 🚗 🏠 🌳
- REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES ⚡ 🏠 🌳 🌊
- RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 🌳
- REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES 🌳
- NATIONAL FUND FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY 🏠 ⚡
- NATIONAL EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMME FOR SUSTAINABLE HOME-SCHOOL AND HOME-WORK MOBILITY 🚗
- SUSTAINABLE URBAN MOBILITY INCENTIVE PROGRAMME – PRIMUS 🚗
- NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN FOR RECHARGING VEHICLES POWERED BY ELECTRICITY – PNIRE 🚗
- NATIONAL COHESION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND 2014-2020 ⚡ 🌊
- INTERREG PROGRAMMES 🚗 ⚡ 🌳 🌊

POLAND

See Section 2.3 and Annex 3.3 of the Report

- OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT 🏠 ⚡ 🌳 🌊
- REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES 🏠 ⚡ 🌳 🌊
- RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME ⚡
- NATIONAL FUND FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND WATER MANAGEMENT (NFEP&WM) ⚡ 🌊
- REGIONAL FUNDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND WATER MANAGEMENT ⚡ 🌳 🌊
- FUND FOR THERMOMODERNISATION AND RENOVATION 🏠 ⚡
- GREEN BONDS 🚗 ⚡ 🌳 🌊

SPAIN

See Section 2.4 and Annex 3.4 of the Report

- MULTIREGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME ⚡ 🚗 🌳
- REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES ⚡ 🌳
- CARBON FUND FOR A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY 🏠 🚗 🌳 🌊
- PLANS FOR SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENT 🌳
- FUNDS UNDER THE BIODIVERSITY FOUNDATION 🌳
- PROGRAMME FOR THE ENERGY REHABILITATION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS 🏠 ⚡
- GRANTS FOR EFFICIENT TRANSPORT MODES 🚗
- PLAN FOR RENEWING STREET LIGHTING 📡
- PROGRAMME FOR SUPPORTING SME AND LARGE INDUSTRY ⚡

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**European Committee
of the Regions**

Created in 1994 following the signing of the Maastricht Treaty,
the European Committee of the Regions is the EU's assembly of 350 regional and
local representatives from all 28 Member States, representing over 507 million Europeans.

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