

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

**The role of Local and Regional
Authorities in the implementation of
Europe 2020 – Analysis of 2015
National Reform Programmes**

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Glossary of terms

CoR	Committee of the Regions
CSR	Country-specific Recommendations
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EC	European Commission
EP	European Parliament
ESIF	European Structural and Investment Funds
LLL	Lifelong Learning
LMP	Labour Market Policies
LRA	Local and Regional Authorities
MS	Member States
MLG	Multi-level Governance
NRP	National Reform Programme
PA	Partnership Agreement
PES	Public Employment Service
ToR	Terms of Reference

Executive Summary

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

The research results are the main findings on the involvement of Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs) in the preparation of the National Reform Programmes (NRPs). The analysis first highlights the main findings from the 2015 NRPs and secondly presents a comparative analysis with earlier reform programmes covering the years from 2011 to 2014. Furthermore, the study provides an overview of all 28 NRPs of the EU Member States.

These summaries of each reform programme (country fiches) comprise introductory information about the regions and their role in the Member State as well as an overview on the regional disparities in the country. The summaries also study how the local and regional actors are represented in the preparation and implementation process of the reform programmes and if there are explicit references to their contribution. Furthermore, the country fiches make observations about the role of the LRAs in implementing NRPs/CSRs and Europe 2020. Finally, relevant related questions on administrative capacity are tackled in the country fiches.

The Partnership und Multi-level Governance part of the country fiches looks at the coordination among the tiers of administration, referring to specific models of cooperation (Territorial Pacts etc.) in the reform programme or the Europe 2020 implementation, as well as wider partnerships (social partners, CSO etc.). The country fiches also describe measures for institutional capacity building wherever the reference documents offer any concrete information.

Finally, significant attention is given to the territorial dimension, not least by raising the question if the NRPs reflect territorial challenges and the needs of the local and regional level. In addition, this part looks at the impact of the planned territorial measures on the LRAs and mentions any initiatives that are envisaged to target specific types of authorities or territories.

The information brought together in the 28 country fiches for all EU Member States builds the basis for the analysis. The main findings for the 2015 NRPs are sub-divided into categories in the summaries.

Involvement of the Local and Regional Authorities

It is interesting to note that almost one third of the NRPs do not mention the role of the LRAs in the preparation of the document. Five NRPs only make a general reference to the involvement of those actors. The most comprehensive information on the involvement can be found in the documents provided by DE, FR and SE.

Only two out of 28 NRPs do not include any reference to LRAs concerning the implementation of the NRP – three only make rather general reference to LRAs. Clear and cross-cutting references have been provided by BE, DE, IT and UK. The large majority of Member States (19) refers to specific policy areas where LRAs play a defined role in the implementation. It is interesting to note that Labour Market, social inclusion and health care policies rank among the most frequently mentioned ones. Another aspect which is mentioned explicitly by four MS is the aspect of ESIF implementation thus demonstrating the importance of ESIF as public investment instrument for Cohesion Countries.

To some extent, the type of information provided on the Europe 2020-related question mirrors that of the NRP-related questions. However, the number of Member States referring to specific policy areas is slightly smaller with 16 cases in total. The most frequently mentioned policy area is social inclusion, followed by energy (renewables) and climate action.

In 13 of the NRPs there is either no reference to the issue of administrative capacities at all (2) or the reference concerns the national level and does not explicitly refer to LRAs (11). In 15 NRPs, the issue of administrative capacity on LRAs is raised. In three Member States (ES, HR, PT) public sector reform is obviously subject to an intense debate – thus the references to the issue of administrative capacities are comparatively comprehensive. In general, administrative capacity is an issue tackled in the NRP of those Member States that undergo ongoing public sector reforms such as FR, ES, HR and PT.

Partnership and Multi-level Governance (MLG)

In only one programme the aspect of administrative coordination is not mentioned at all. In four programmes the references are rather general and do not make any hint on the actual weight of the issue. In seven cases the issue of administrative coordination is explicitly or implicitly understood as a cross-

cutting element while the largest group of 16 programmes includes very specific references. In other words, administrative coordination is highlighted mostly in the context of specific policy areas.

Five out of the 28 programmes do not make any visible reference to cooperation models; five provide rather general reference. On the other hand side, in 18 programmes the subject of cooperation and/or the approach to cooperation is approached by even including exemplary measures. The subject of cooperation varies among the Member States; however in a couple of policy areas several Member States address similar targets. One example is the so-called Youth Guarantees – an approach mentioned in three Programmes (HU, LU and PL) which targets the issue of youth employment. Also in IE and FI cooperation models focus on employment initiatives. In general, the references in the field of coordination and coordination models open a broad variety of topics.

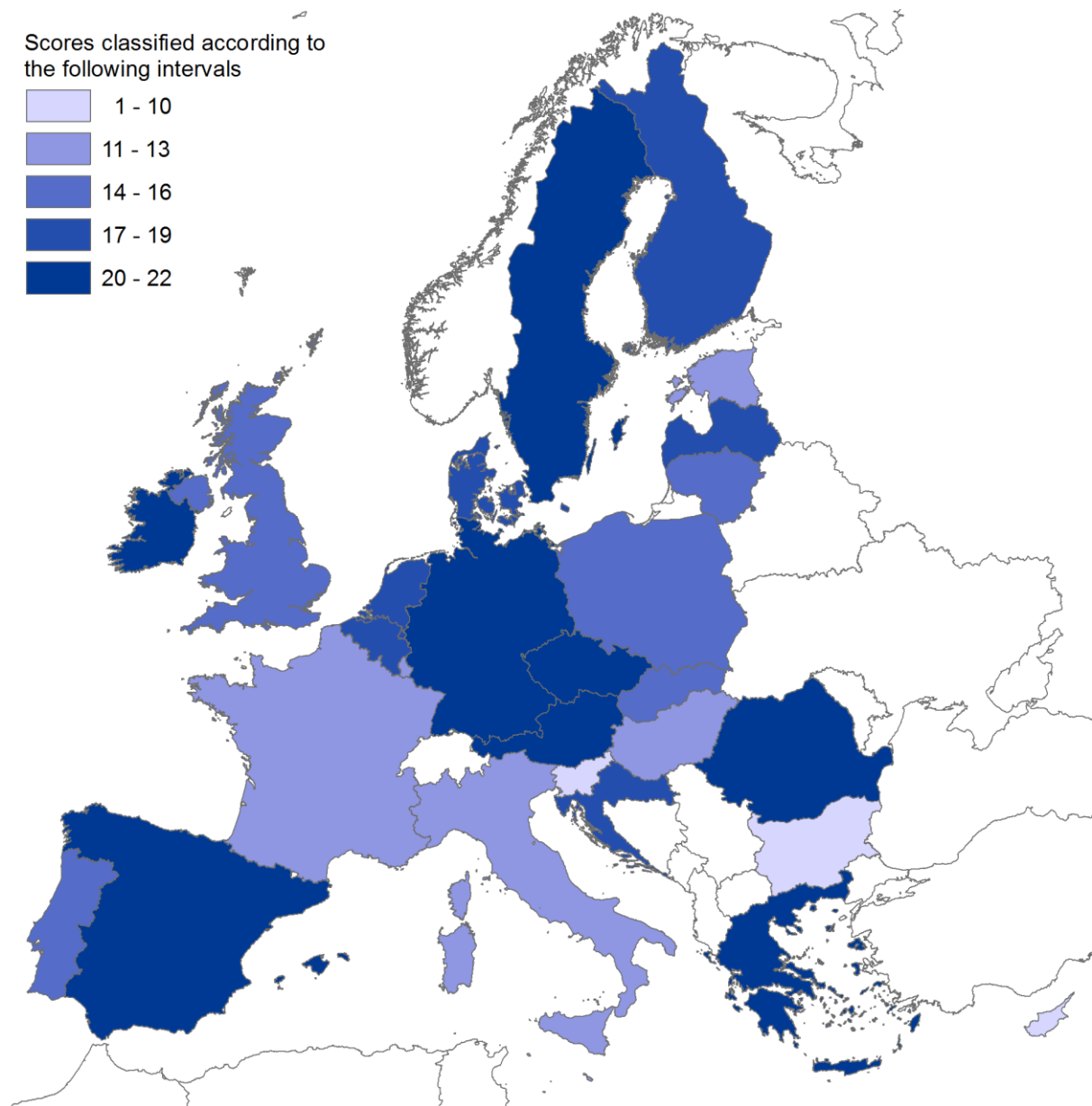
All programmes refer to the inclusion of a wider partnership in policy development. In three cases the reference is rather general and does not allow for drawing any conclusions on the subject or intensity of the consultation or participation process. A rather specific feature is the strong focus that has been put on the inclusion of social partners in the programmes of AT, DE, DK, FR and SI. The by far largest number of 20 programmes does include specific policy areas where participatory approaches have been given a stronger role, most notably labour market, employment and social policy.

Territorial dimension

It is important to note that generally speaking the NRP is – for obvious reasons – not a programme that specifically focuses on a territorial dimension. Policy actors at national level do have the key role in drafting the document and the perspective is mostly on overarching policy approaches and corresponding challenges. However, in the end the majority of NRPs reflects a territorial dimension even though the rationale and the approach differ considerably – the differing perspectives and references can be summarised under the following headings:

- Reference in the context of ESIF policies (e.g. BE, HR, FI).
- Pointing out challenges in specific regions or types of regions (e.g. CZ, EE).
- General references to areas such as areas most affected by the crisis (e.g. EL).

Map of total scores of LRA involvement in the NRP per country



The picture of LRA involvement in NRP across Europe reveals a marked diversity. The Northern and central European countries as well as some peripheral countries show a considerable strong involvement of LRAs in the NRP reports. Including the detailed scores the following patterns can be observed:

- The highest variability of scores can be observed within the territorial dimension.
- The dimensions partnership and MLG have low variations.

- Old MS tend to involve LRAs in the NRPs stronger than new MS; exemptions do exist which can be traced back to detailed descriptions in the NRP reports, i.e. in Romania and Greece.
- Peripheral countries show a higher variability across the three dimensions than central countries.

Comparative analysis

The references used for the comparative analysis of the NRPs have been their predecessors for the years of 2011 to 2014. At this point it is essential to remind the readers that all aspects covered in the comparative analysis describe how the NRPs report on the role and involvement of the LRAs. It does not assess the actual involvement of the LRAs.

In all reports, the extent to which LRA involvement, the partnership and multilevel governance is mentioned varies across the Member States. In all four reports, it is stressed that countries with federal and decentralised governments or devolved regional administrations usually provide fuller and more substantial information on LRAs and MLG than those with a centralised government.

When looking back at the series of reports published since 2011, one has to see that for this Report on the NRPs 2015 the methodology has been changed and the questions have been modified and clustered under three key headings used for the analysis of the main findings in chapter 3. The latter aspect has been introduced for the first time in this report. A second major point is that the approach of the assessment has been altered to a certain extent compared to previous reports. Therefore, the assessment results too are only partly comparable.

Major improvements which have become visible

Looking back over the reporting period since 2011, the 2014 report has highlighted a couple of features of the NRPs that show their improvement over time:

- The inclusion of specific sections or annexes on stakeholder involvement. These additional documents provide more in-depth detail on policies and programmes - however, one has to see that this aspect has been stressed in the Guidance Note of the Commission from 2013 for the first time.
- The increasingly concrete description of macro-economic and social developments - which corresponds to the increasing weight of

complementary issues such as the increasing weight of job creation and combating youth unemployment.

- The increasingly concrete information on programmes and actions taken in response to the CSR – most probably also a result of the dialogue with the Commission and the implicit better mutual understanding about the information requirements.
- An increasing weight of rather pragmatic aspects such as administrative capacity and financial aspects.

1 Introduction

Within the context of the European Semester the EU Member States (MS) have delivered their National Reform Programmes (NRP) in April 2015. The programmes are based on the priorities defined by the European Commission (EC) in the Annual Growth Survey. The Commission says about the NRPs:

All Member States have committed to the Europe 2020 strategy. However, each country has different economic circumstances and translates the overall EU objectives into national targets in its National Reform Programme – a document which presents the country's policies and measures to sustain growth and jobs and to reach the Europe 2020 targets. The National Reform Programme is presented in parallel with its Stability/Convergence Programme, which sets out the country's budgetary plans for the coming three or four years.¹

NRPs should follow a multi-level governance (MLG) approach which means being designed and implemented by all tiers of government in partnership. This was outlined in the Athens Declaration on the mid-term review of Europe 2020, presented at the 6th Summit of European Regions and Cities in March 2014. The Committee of the Regions (CoR) advocates this approach which also includes the possibility of negotiated arrangements such as Territorial Pacts and that all public authorities relevant for Europe 2020 (national as well as local and regional authorities – LRA) follow coordinated and integrated agendas.

The current study in the following aims at elaborating an analysis of all 28 NRPs for 2015 and if necessary its annexed documents. The report will provide the CoR at the end of the day with a structured and comparable analysis of the NRP content focusing on the role of the LRAs and the issues raised by the Athens Declaration.

In our point of view the review of the National Reform Programmes for 2015 should pay due attention to four key points:

- The involvement of LRAs in the design and implementation of the NRP – highlighting also good practice in the implementation process of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the European Semester.

¹ European Commission. Website Europe 2020.

http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/making-it-happen/country-specific-recommendations/index_en.htm

- Partnership and multi-level governance – do these principles take effect on the design and implementation of the NRPs and EU 2020.
- The territorial dimension – covering needs and challenges, impact as well as specific policies.

2 Methodology

The analysis delivers as far as possible a comparative approach between the current situation and the years before. The final report at the end of the research will comprise to what extent the involvement of LRAs has improved or worsened. A first comparative analysis is already included in this draft.

2.1 Review of the EC Guidance on the contents and format of the NRP

The EC has developed a concise guidance for the NRPs where the major expectations concerning the NRPs are laid down:

- The main focus is on the implementation of the country-specific recommendations (CSR).
- The implementation of Europe 2020 is the second focus.
- For the NRPs 2014 the EC has requested a section on the approach to ESIF in the period 2014-2020 and the consistency with the national Europe 2020 targets.

According to the Guidance a specific section should be dedicated to institutional issues and the involvement of stakeholders – a specific reference to LRAs is explicitly requested:

*How regional and local authorities (as relevant, depending on the division of competencies in individual Member States) were involved in the preparation of the NRP and in the implementation of the past guidance and commitments. Good practice examples on the implementation process of the Europe 2020 strategy and the European Semester at regional and local level may also be included.*²

In accordance with the Guidance the notion of disparities can most probably be found in the requested section on the macro-economic impact of structural reforms.

In general NRPs should be closely and consistently interlinked with the Stability and Growth / Convergence Programmes (SGP / SCP). Thus in case of lack of crucial information also these programmes may be consulted.

² European Commission, Guidance on the content and format of the National Reform Programmes, October 2013, Brussels, p. 5.

2.2 Operational guidelines for the analysis of the 2015 NRP

In general it is important to point out that:

- The actual scope of involvement in the implementation of the NRPs is defined by the political-administrative system of each MS.
- These systems tend to be persistent and change processes towards decentralisation tend to be mid to long-term processes as can be seen from the examples of CZ, SK and PL which have shown relatively dynamic developments in the past decade.

For the previous reports a specific format has been developed. A key question is whether:

- the scoring along rather narrowly defined (closed) questions should be kept or
- a new approach for the summaries of findings should be chosen.

The template of a Country Fiche below is the model to rank the quality of information provided in the NRP according to a quite simple and straightforward classification with three stages.

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

Table 1. Dimensions of the analysis and key evaluation questions

Dimension	Key evaluation questions	Comments
<i>Involvement of LRAs in the NRP</i>		
Preparation	Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?	It is evident that the more clear and explicit the reference is the better
Implementation	Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. concise references to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	
Europe 2020	Role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?	Here country-specific recommendations could be taken into account

Dimension	Key evaluation questions	Comments
Capacity of LRAs	In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?	
<i>Partnership and multilevel governance (MLG)</i>		
Coordination among the tiers of administration	Clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level?	As a first stage of consideration related to MLG
Cooperation models	Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?	Major point is that cooperation should be target-oriented – models testify the will to experiment
Wider Partnership (multi-actorship)	Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process	
Institutional capacity-building	Clear point on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?	Active approaches to capacity-building can demonstrate a commitment to MLG
<i>Territorial Dimension of the NRP</i>		
Challenges and needs	Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?	The basis to anchor a territorial dimension
Impact	Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?	A second step is to include an impact assessment since the impact of sectorial approaches might differ between territories
Specific policies	Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?	The most obvious territorial dimension

Source: Committee of the Regions³, own considerations.

The Country Fiches follow the structure in the Table 1 on dimensions and key evaluation questions.

We propose to introduce a rough classification of the elements found in the NRP, e.g. in three stages, following the logic that the more concrete and concise

³ Committee of the Regions, On the role of the local and regional authorities in the Europe 2020 National Reform Programmes: Analysis of the 2013 National Reform Programmes, Report by the ecologic Institute, Brussels 2014, pp. 5-8.

the information the more reflected is the integration in the NRP and thus the awareness for the role of LRAs.

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

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

Source: own considerations.

The subdivision within Score “2” (Specific references to LRAs) is mentioned in Table 2 since it became clearly visible when assessing the NRPs. The two options seem to mirror to some extent differences in the constitution of MS. The first option of consistent and cross-cutting references is often the case for NRPs of “old” MS like AT, BE, DE, UK with a strongly institutionalised participation of LRAs across all policy fields. The second case of specific references often mirrors the specific competences of LRA in MS where an institutionalised division of tasks between national level and LRAs is under development - beside cases where simply a specific policy field is highlighted.

As can be seen in the overview evaluation tables of Chapter 3 on main findings, in some cases additional differentiations were introduced in order to highlight specific issues relevant for the main findings (e.g. the role of social partnership for the key evaluation question “Wider partnership - multi-actorship” in some countries).

The evaluation criteria for the key evaluation questions “Capacity of LRAs” and “Institutional capacity-building” were slightly adopted to provide for the different degrees of centralisation of MS. Concerning these key evaluation questions, no reference to the topic scored “0”, reference to the topic at national level scored “1”, whereas explicit mentioning of LRAs scored “2”.

In principle all references in NRPs scoring 2 were considered as potential examples of good practice. For evident reasons good practice examples for all

dimensions according to the above table will be sought but the Report for 2013⁴ rather points at the fact that this might not be possible in all cases.

The following table presents the template for the country fiches.

⁴ Cf. CoR 2014.

Table 3. Country Fiche Template

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Regions and their role		Source of information
Regional disparities in the MS		Source of information
<i>Involvement of LRAs in the NRP</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Preparation		
Implementation		
Europe 2020		
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway		
<i>Partnership and MLG</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Coordination among the tiers of administration		
Cooperation models		
Wider partnership (multi-actorship)		
Institutional capacity-building		
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Challenges and needs		
Impact / Coverage		
Specific policies		

2.3 Process for the validation of the analysis

The approach is understood as desk research. In order to validate the country fiches a feedback loop with contact persons provided by the CoR was foreseen in order to prevent misunderstandings or misleading interpretation. The feedback loop was also used in order to clarify sensitive points in the analysis. In 12 cases feedback was provided and some adaptations were carried out in the following. In some cases the feedback provided additional information to the NRPs which were not part of the analysis. If useful these comments were included as general comments in a footnote or the main text was slightly adapted. In general references to working groups, specific documents etc. not part of the NRP process were not considered.

2.4 Country experts resolving linguistic problems and providing background information

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

3 Main findings for the 2015 NRPs

It is important to note that for the report on the NRPs the methodology has been changed. The revised approach seeks to provide a brief review of the main findings related to the three main underlying questions:

- Involvement of the LRAs in the preparation and implementation of the NRP.
- The role of Partnership and Multi-Level Governance in the NRP.
- The territorial dimension of the NRP.

The following sections section includes a general assessment over all NRPs respectively MS as well as the more detailed results according to the key evaluation questions.

3.1 Involvement of LRAs in the NRP

3.1.1 Preparation of the NRP

It is interesting to note that eight NRPs do not mention the role of the LRAs in the preparation of the Document.

Some NRPs (5 out of 20) provide only a very general reference to the involvement.

A total of 15 NRPs make reference to the involvement of LRAs. The most comprehensive information on the involvement as well as the statements can be found in the Documents provided by DE, FR and SE.

3.1.2 Implementation of the NRP

Only a minor part of the NRPs does not include any reference (2).

Three documents include only quite general references.

Clear and cross-cutting references have been provided by BE, DE, IT and UK.

The clear majority of MS (19) provides references to specific policy areas where LRAs do have a role in implementation. It is interesting to note that Labour Market Policies (LMP), social inclusion policies, education and health care rank among the most frequently mentioned ones. Another aspect which is mentioned

explicitly by four MS is the aspect of ESIF implementation thus demonstrating the importance of ESIF as public investment instrument for Cohesion Countries.

3.1.3 EU 2020

To some extent the responses related to EU 2020 mirror those for the previous question related to the NRP. No reference to LRAs is made in two cases, only general reference in three cases.

Clear and cross-cutting references have been provided by five countries.

The number of references to specific policy areas is slightly smaller (16) than for the previous key evaluation question. The policy area most frequently mentioned is social inclusion policies, with energy (renewables) and climate action ranking second.

It is important to note that although the UK does have references to Europe 2020, there is no separate chapter on it the documents, contrary to documents from other countries. Additionally, Greek NRP follows a different structure, in line with the requirements of the assistance programme.

3.1.4 Administrative capacities

For about half of NRPs there is either no reference to the issue at all (2) or the reference concerns the national level and does not explicitly refer to LRAs (11).

Five NRPs contain general reference to the issue mentioning the role of LRAs.

In three MS (ES, HR, PT) public sector reform is obviously subject to an intense debate – thus the references to the issue of administrative capacities are comparatively comprehensive. In general one can state that administrative capacity is an issue for the NRP in those MS with an ongoing public sector reform such as FR, ES, HR and PT.

Finally in seven MS is an issue with a view to specific policy aspects, e.g. procurement and utilisation of ESIF in EL and SK.

3.2 Assessment in detail

3.2.1 Preparation of the NRP

Key evaluation question:

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

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	8	No reference: CY, EE, FI, EL, HR, HU, LT, SI,
1	5	General reference: BG, IT, LU, RO SK,
2	9	Consistent and cross-cutting references: BE CZ ES LV MT NL SE – detailed information provided in specific Annex FR – detailed information and statements of institutions as Annex UK
	6	Specific references: AT – working groups DE – Länder Conferences DK – in Contact Committees IE – related to specific work groups PL - Inter-Ministerial Team for the Europe 2020 Strategy PT- The National Association
	N/A	Examples to be highlighted

Source: Country Fiches.

3.2.2 Implementation of the NRP

Key evaluation question:

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

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	2	No reference: CY, SI
1	3	General reference: BG, HU, MT
2	4	Consistent and cross-cutting reference: BE DE - key role of the Länder IT UK – reference to role of devolved administrations
	19	Specific references: AT – health care, education, tax reform CZ - employment DK – LMP, environmental sustainability EE – education, business environment ES – taxation, employment, education, social policies FI – housing, LMP FR – LMP EL – entrepreneurship, ESIF, energy, social inclusion HR – tax, ESIF, health care IE – social inclusion policies LT – social inclusion policies LU – climate action and LMP (youth employment) LV – digital agenda, infrastructure, employment NL – e.g. health care (Annex with detailed provisions) PL – education, poverty reduction, renewable energy PT - ESIF RO – corruption, social inclusion SK – education, social inclusion policies SE – housing, youth employment, social inclusion
	N/A	Examples to be highlighted:

Source: Country Fiches.

3.2.3 EU 2020

Key evaluation question:

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

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	6	No reference: BG, CY, EE, FR, MT, SK
1	1	General reference: PT
2	5	Consistent and cross-cutting reference: AT, BE, DE, DK, UK
	16	Specific references: CZ – employment, social inclusion ES – employment, education FI – employment, climate and energy

		EL – entrepreneurship, ESIF, energy, social inclusion HR – social inclusion policies HU – social inclusion policies IE – social inclusion policies IT – environmental sustainability LT – social inclusion policies, education LU – climate action and LMP (youth employment) LV – education, climate action, energy NL – social inclusion, climate action, energy, RDTI PL – waste management RO – climate action, energy, health care, employment SI – community-based approaches for poverty reduction SE – social inclusion, climate action, energy
	N/A	Examples to be highlighted:

Source: Country Fiches.

3.2.4 Administrative capacity

Key evaluation question:

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

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	2	No reference at all: MT, SI
1	11	General reference without explicitly mentioning LRAs: BG, CY, FI, HU, IT, LT, LU, NL, PL, RO, UK
2	5	General reference including LRAs BE, DE, DK, FR, HU
	3	Consistent and cross-cutting references including LRAs: ES – public sector reform HR – public sector reform PT – public sector reform
	7	Specific references : AT – health care CZ - employment EE – business environment EL – procurement, ESIF LV – social inclusion, youth employment SE – housing SK - ESIF
	N/A	Examples to be highlighted

Source: Country Fiches.

Note: Scoring criteria were slightly adopted for this key evaluation question in order to provide for the different degrees of centralisation of MS.

3.3 Partnership and Multi-Level Governance (MLG)

3.3.1 Coordination among the tiers of administration

In only one programme the aspect of administrative coordination is not mentioned at all. In four programmes the references are rather general and do not provide any hint on the actual weight of the issue.

In a distinct group of 7 MS the issue of administrative coordination is explicitly or implicitly understood as cross-cutting element which in the end determines the approach in all policy fields.

The largest group of programmes (16) include references which are quite specific in nature, i.e. administrative coordination is highlighted mostly in the context of specific policy areas. The most frequently mentioned area is labour market and employment policies (8). A second visible group of MS mentions fiscal policies in the programme (4) – a policy element which is also prevalent in the group of MS where administrative coordination is considered as a cross-cutting issue. The further references open a broad variety of topics.

3.3.2 Cooperation models

Five out of the 28 Programmes do not include any visible reference to cooperation models; five provide rather general reference.

However in 18 programmes the subject of cooperation and or the approach to cooperation could be considered as models. The subject of cooperation varies among the MS; however in a couple of policy areas several MS address similar targets. One example is the so-called Youth Guarantees – an approach mentioned in three Programmes (HU, LU and PL) which targets the issue of youth employment. Also in IE and FI cooperation models focus on employment initiatives.

Another interesting perspective is that of intended incentives to further cooperation between municipalities such as in LT (in particular in health care) or HR – a clear hint that in particular small municipalities do face significant challenges in policy implementation.

3.3.3 Wider partnership

There are no programmes that do not refer to the inclusion of a wider partnership in policy development. In three cases the reference is rather general

and does not allow drawing any conclusions on the subject or intensity of the consultation or participation process.

A quite specific feature is the strong focus on the inclusion of the social partners in the Programmes of AT, DE, DK, FR and SI.

The by far largest number of programmes (20) does include references to specific policy areas where participatory approaches have stronger role: labour market, employment and social policies rank among those policy area. Those are explicitly mentioned in the programmes of 11 MS.

3.3.4 Institutional capacity building

In four programmes institutional capacity building is not addressed.

A second group of 12 programmes does include partly general references to the subject (8) or specific ones (4) but without an explicit reference to LRAs. It is noteworthy that two NRPs refer to the need of capacity-building to further the utilisation of ESIF. In ES and PT it is mentioned as important element of the public sector reform. The NRP of EL has devoted an entire section to this aspect. A recurring topic for capacity-building on this national level is procurement and e-government.

In 12 NRPs the intended approach to capacity-building includes a reference to LRAs. Recurring issues are social policies and childcare (5) or employment (3) or the fight against corruption (3).

3.4 Assessment in detail

3.4.1 Coordination among the tiers of administration

Key evaluation question:

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

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	1	No reference at all: MT
1	4	General reference: CY, LV, SI, SK (public sector reform),
2	7	Consistent and cross-cutting reference: AT, BE, DE, DK, FI, RO, UK (implicitly)
	16	Specific references: BG – fiscal policies (tax), reduction of early school leavers CZ – fiscal policies, digital agenda, social policies EE – Labour Market policies (LMP), RDTI ES – public sector reform, fiscal policies, employment FR – employment, social policies EL – education and LMP HU - employment IE – Local Employment and Community Plans (LECPs), Local Employment Offices HR – Public Internal Financial Control System IT – territorial planning, health care, tourism, culture LT – local level and labour offices LU – environment, health care, social policies NL – economic policy, pension system PL – renewable energy, social economy PT – public sector reform SE – youth employment, transport infrastructure
	N/A	Examples to be highlighted:

Source: Country Fiches.

3.4.2 Cooperation models

Key evaluation question:

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

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	5	No reference at all: BG, EE, LV, MT, SK
1	5	General reference: CY, DK, FR, SI (CLLD), UK
2	18	Specific references: AT – health care, education, tax reform BE – renewable energy, education CZ – tax reform DE – variety of models especially related to budgeting, health and education ES – Commission on administrative simplification

		FI – employment promotion, training EL – centres for Lifelong-Learning (LLL) HR – intended incentives for mergers or cooperation between municipalities HU – Youth Guarantee IE – community-based employment programmes IT – management of cultural assets LT – incentives for intermunicipal cooperation in health care LU – Youth Guarantee NL – economic growth, reform of pension system PL – Youth Guarantee PT- ESIF RO – social and economic cohesion SE – Forum for National Growth 2015-2020
	5	Examples to be highlighted FI, IE (SICAP), IT, HU&LU&PL (Youth Guarantee), SE

Source: Country Fiches.

3.4.3 Wider partnership (multi-actorship)

Key evaluation question:

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

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	0	No reference at all: -
1	3	General reference: EE, ES, IT
2	5	Reference focussing on social partners: AT, DE, DK, FR, SI
	20	Specific references: BE – Labour Market Policies (LMP), social policies BG – LMP, social policies CY – specific references CZ – several specific references (e.g. social services, RDTI) FI – LMP EL – centres for LLL, programme for most deprived (EU Funds) HR – Economic and Social Council (ESC) HU – employment, education , health IE – climate action, combating child poverty, Local economic and Community Plans (LECP) LT – social policies LU – RTDI, labour market LV – several policy areas MT – Euro Plus Pact, Flagship Initiatives

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
		NL – NRP and in Annex PL – social policies PT – RDTI, digital agenda RO – industrial policy, health SK – e-governance, employment policies SE – detailed references in Annex UK – social policy, other policy fields
	N/A	Examples to be highlighted: IE (LECP), SE (detailed Annex)

Source: Country Fiches.

3.4.4 Institutional capacity-building

Key evaluation question:

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

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	4	No reference at all: EE, FR, IE, NL
1	12	General or specific reference not specifically mentioning LRAs: AT, BE, CY, HU, LU, PT, SE, UK HR –ESIF, Public Employment Services (PES), Supreme Audit IT – ESIF MT – procurement, e-government PL – sectorial approach
2	12	Specific references mentioning LRAs: BG – employment agencies CZ – child care, employment DE – e-government (tax collection) DK – sustainable policies ES – important element of public sector reform FI – social and health care, employment EL – entire chapter (in particular e-government, procurement, transparency) LT – programme for improvement of local public amenities LV – education, social services, investment support RO – social policies, decentralisation SI – fight against corruption SK – regional adm., child care, employment, fight against corruption
	N/A	Examples to be highlighted

Source: Country Fiches.

Note: Scoring criteria were slightly adopted for this key evaluation question in order to provide for the different degrees of centralisation of MS.

3.5 Territorial dimension

It is important to note that generally speaking the NRP is – for obvious reasons – not a programme which is specifically focussing on a territorial dimension. Policy actors at national level do have the key role in drafting the document and the perspective is mostly on overarching policy approaches and corresponding challenges. However, in the end the majority of NRPs does reflect a territorial dimension though the rationale and approach differs quite strongly – the differing perspectives and references can be summarised under the following headings:

- Reference in the context of ESIF policies (e.g. BE, HR, FI).
- Pointing out challenges in specific regions or types of regions (e.g. CZ, EE).
- General references to areas such as areas most affected by the crisis (e.g. EL).

3.5.1 Challenges and needs

More than one third of NRPs (10) do not include any reference to needs and challenges from a territorial perspective.

The NRPs of BE, PT and UK have to be considered as specific cases since in these Documents the policy outlines are explicitly referring to regions thus the overall approach of the NRP is – to some extent - embedded in a regional context.

Finally there is a large group of MS (15) where specific challenges for types of regions or even specific regions are mentioned in the NRP. The challenges range from lack of infrastructure endowments over unemployment and public health to social inclusion.

3.5.2 Impact and coverage

By far the majority of programmes does not relate to any specific territorial aspects of impact or coverage (17).

The NRP of UK again presents a special case where the overall approach is embedded in a regional context.

The smaller group of MS – ten in total - where the NRPs do include such references reveals a broad variety of topics and perspectives. In three MS (EL, LV, NL) the impact of specific programmes has been or will be subject to an

evaluation thus taking note of regional differences. In case of AT and IE as another example the intended (respectively ongoing) reorganisation for RDTI policies heads for regional coverage. In general the actual weight of the aspect in the NRPs should not be overestimated.

3.5.3 Specific policies

It is interesting to note that only 8 NRPs do not mention any specific policy with an explicit territorial dimension.

In the case of four programmes, the overall approach is embedded in a regional context.

The majority of the programmes (16) do include at least one or more elements which can be considered as specific policy approach for certain regions. Again the context of the references and the underlying rationale varies strongly among the MS. Implicitly or explicitly the most frequent reference is to employment initiatives in areas most affected by unemployment (4). Another type of regions addressed by specific approaches in the NRP are the urban centres e.g. in case of DK, FI, IE and HR. AT, DE and MT have provided comprehensive project lists as annexes to the Programme thus adding a regional dimension. Peripheral rural regions are an issue in the Programmes of RO and SE.

3.6 Assessment in detail

3.6.1 Challenges and needs

Key evaluation question:

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

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	10	No reference at all: BG, CY, DK, FR, IT, LT, LU, NL, PL, SI
1	3	General reference (regional context): BE, PT, UK
2	15	Specific references: AT – list of measures covering public finances, education, gender mainstreaming, employment, business environment, health, RTDI, energy and environment, and social inclusion CZ – infrastructure, environmental burdens DE – education, labour market, child care, social inclusion

		EE – education, business environment, urban centres ES – good governance FI – administrative reform EL – unemployment HU – social inclusion (Roma) HR – public health IE – unemployment LV – infrastructure, education MT – infrastructure, RTDI RO – digital infrastructure, housing SK – good governance SE - transport
	N/A	Examples to be highlighted

Source: Country Fiches.

3.6.2 Impact and coverage

Key evaluation question:

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

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	17	No reference at all: BE, BG, CY, DE, DK, EE, FI, FR, HR, HU, IT, LT, LU, PL, PT, SI, SK,
1	1	General reference (regional context): UK
2	10	Specific references: AT – health care, RDTI CZ – employment, social housing ES – impact and aspects of coverage (Annex) EL – impact evaluation of a social policy programme IE – regional clusters of higher education LV – differing impact of education programmes MT – qualitative impact assessment for projects NL – differences related to impact of housing programmes and renewable energy projects RO – social inclusion, education SE – housing, social policy
	N/A	Examples to be highlighted

Source: Country Fiches.

3.6.3 Specific policies

Key evaluation question:

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

Score	No of NRPs / MS	Assessment
0	8	No reference at all: BG, CY, FR, HU, IT, LU, PL, SI
1	4	General reference (regional context): BE, ES, PT, UK
2	16	Specific references: AT – project list CZ – employment, education, energy DE – project list DK – sustainable public transport Copenhagen EE – education, business environment, urban centres FI – in the context of ESIF (ESF, sustainable urban development) EL – local employment and social inclusion initiatives in regions most affected by crisis HR – ESIF – ITI in deprived urban neighbourhoods IE – LMP, reduction of child poverty, housing (Dublin) LT – employment initiatives in regions with highest unemployment LV – agglomeration area, employment initiatives in regions with highest unemployment MT – project list NL – LMP, renewable energy projects RO – health care, education, infrastructure in isolated rural areas SK – infrastructure, energy efficiency (Bratislava region) SE – broadband access in peripheral rural areas
	N/A	Examples to be highlighted

Source: Country Fiches.

3.7 Total scores of LRA involvement in the NRP per country

The picture of the sum of overall scores per country displayed in map 1 must be taken with caution keeping in mind that the scores display how the NRP reports describe the role and involvement of the LRAs and does not assess their actual involvement. The map presents a graphical overview and first orientation of the overall picture comparing the countries.

The picture of LRA involvement in NRP across Europe reveals a marked diversity. The Northern and central European countries as well as some peripheral countries show a considerable strong involvement of LRAs in the NRP reports.

Including the detailed scores the following patterns can be observed (cf. Annex):

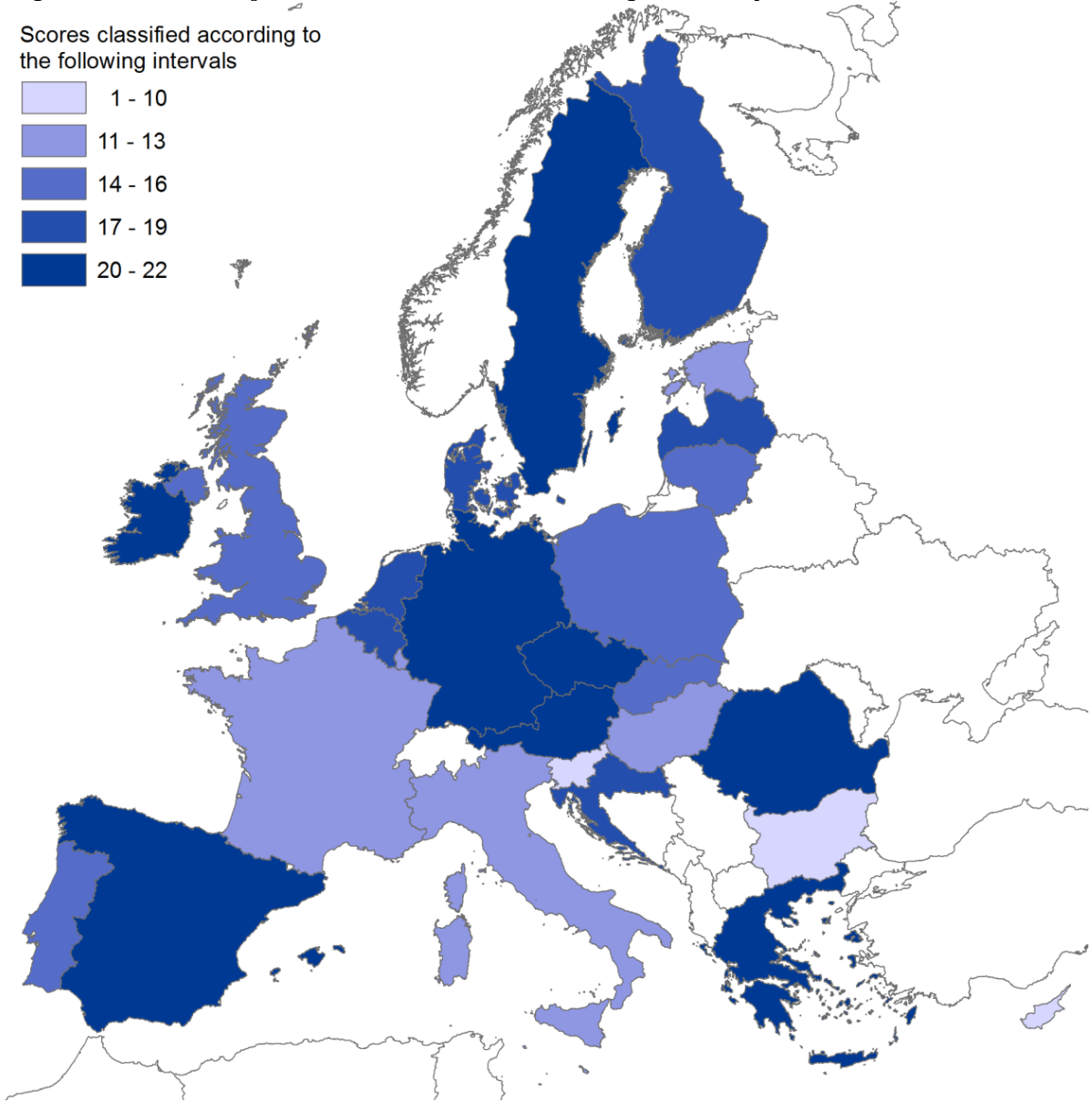
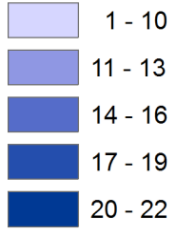
- The highest variability of scores can be observed within the territorial dimension.
- The dimensions partnership and MLG have low variations.
- Old MS tend to involve LRAs in the NRPs stronger than new MS; exemptions do exist which can be traced back to detailed descriptions in the NRP reports, i.e. in Romania and Greece.
- Peripheral countries show a higher variability across the three dimensions than central countries.

From a methodological point of view, it has to be added that in the assessment process undertaken by different country experts it cannot be excluded – despite the common methodology and several rounds of validation – that some interpretations were slightly different from others.

For a concrete assessment per country, the country fiches must be consulted.

Map 1. Total scores of LRA involvement in the NRP per country

Scores classified according to the following intervals



4 Comparative analysis

This chapter comprises a summary and comparison on the role of LRAs in the Europe 2020 NRPs. The objects of investigation have been the corresponding studies for the NRPs covering the years 2011 to 2014. The review of these reports is the fundament for the presentation of the main findings for the 2015 NRPs. Once again it is important to stress that all aspects in the comparative analysis describe how the NRP reports on the role and involvement of the LRAs – it does not assess the actual involvement.

In all reports, the extent to which LRA involvement, and partnership and multilevel governance is mentioned varies by Member State (MS). In all four reports, it is stressed that countries with a federal, decentralised government or devolved regional administrations usually provide fuller and more substantial information on LRAs and MLG than those with a centralised government.

When looking back on the series of reports since 2011 one has to see that for this Report on the NRPs 2015 the methodology has been changed – i.e. the questions have been modified and clustered under three key headings, i.e. firstly the involvement of the LRAs in the preparation and implementation of the NRP, secondly the role of Partnership and MLG in the NRP and finally the territorial dimension of the NRP. The latter aspect has been introduced for the first time with this report. A second major point is that the approach of the assessment has been altered to a certain extent – thus also the assessment results are only partly comparable.

The summary review includes an overview for the years 2011 to 2014 and presents – to the extent possible – the comparable results for the NRPs 2015.⁵

4.1 Direct references and involvement

The NRPs from 2013 have the highest percentage of direct references to LRAs in the NRPs (96%) – for the NRPs 2014 the value has dropped to 71%. The extent to which the LRAs are mentioned varies. According to the Report from 2013, the NRPs from Germany, Sweden and the UK contain the most extensive coverage of LRAs; in 2014 it have been the NRPs from Austria, Finland, Hungary, Latvia and Poland and the UK.

⁵ Included in the italics boxes.

In 2015 28 NRPs (100%) do provide direct references to LRAs.

In terms of involvement of LRAs in the NRPs, the NRPs from 2011 contained the highest percentages of LRA involvement concerning various aspects in the development and drafting of the NRPs. The second highest was from 2013, with 2012 having the least. The only area, where the 2012 NRPs had the highest percentage of LRA mention, is concerning ‘the treatment of written contributions from LRAs in the 2012 NRP’. That being said, although LRA involvement was cited in the most NRPs from 2011, it could be said that the NRPs from 2013 went more in-depth concerning detail of the involvement of LRAs in the NRPs. The Report for 2014 marks out that in qualitative and quantitative terms a group of eight MS is showing a high involvement, four MS a medium level of involvement and the majority, i.e. a group of 16 MS reveal quite low involvement.

Diverse involvement of LRAs in the preparation of the NRPs across Europe in 2015

The descriptions on the role of LRAs in the preparation of the NRP shows a quite stable position over the years – starting from 17 NRPs (63%) it fell to 14 NRPs (50%) in 2014.

Last year’s result corresponds to the result for 2015: 20 NRPs (71%) include such references albeit of varying quality.

In the 2011 report, 100% of the NRPs mention the role of LRAs in implementing the activities described in their NRPs. The reports from 2013 were just below that, 93% and for the NRPs 2014 the percentage amounts to 86% (highlighting the examples of AT, BE, IT, LT and UK). Although most reports contain good to substantial coverage on LRA implementation, there is scarce information on LRA monitoring and evaluation of activities and policies under the NRP.

For the NRPs 2015 the general result points at 23 or 82% of NRPs which include either cross-cutting or specific references to the role of LRAs in the implementation of activities

The 2011 reports contained little information regarding financial information related to LRA activity and policy implementation: This aspect has seen an increase in the years 2012 and 2013 (86%) and has dropped to 68% in 2014. However, this information is rarely referred to in the text; rather, it can be found in tables.

This aspect has not been analysed separately for the 2015 NRPs

In all four years, many countries' NRPs reference the importance of strengthening or developing the administrative capacity of LRAs (the highest percentage has been reached with the 2014 NRPs (68%).

For 2015 a total of 15 NRPs (54%) including direct references have been identified

4.2 Partnership and Multi-Level Governance

In terms of partnership and multi-level governance, the mention of Territorial Pacts is rare in the NRPs for all three years, with only 1 NRP making mention of such in 2011 (Romania) and 1 in 2013 (the UK); the Report for the NRPs 2014 highlights the example of the Climate Pact of Luxembourg.

In the 2015 report the question has been formulated more openly, searching the NRPs for cooperation models involving LRAs – about 60% of the NRPs (17) have included such references across a variety of sectors

In comparison, quantitative reference to MLG was much higher. The way in which MLG was referenced in the NRPs varied from formal mention to informal mention. The informal mention of MLG refers to 'informal MLG-type agreements between the central government and local and/or regional authorities'. The informal measure of MLG reference was not included until 2012, thus there is no information on such from 2011. The NRPs from 2011, however, contained the highest percentage of formal mention of MLG (56%), followed by the Reports from 2014 (46%) and then the Reports from 2013 (29%). The year with the highest percentage of informal mention of MLG is 2014 (79%) being closely followed by the Reports from 2013 (75%) – pointing at a major increase since 2012 (30%).

For 2015 the approach to the question has been altered to some extent – thus the comparability of results is limited – however a strong element of formal cooperation can be found in a group of seven NRPs and about 16 NRPs point out the aspect in specific references to sector policies – thus in total 23 NRPs or 82% include references to MLG

4.3 Implementing past guidance and commitments

Four new questions were added in the 2013 study, which were not included in the studies from 2012 and 2011. One of the questions concerned ‘the role of LRAs in implementing past guidance and commitments, including examples of good practices in the 2013 NRPs’. Regarding this question, Austria was given as an example, as it showcased LRA involvement in the implementation of Europe 2020. It also includes Malta as an example, as the Malta’s NRP refers to multilevel government action it has taken in response to Country Specific Recommendations. Referring to this question the number of NRPs including references has dropped sharply from 61% in 2013 to 32% in 2014.

This aspect has not been subject of a specific analysis for the NRPs 2015

4.4 Focus on preparation of the ESIF period 2014-2020

As part of the focus on the preparation of the ESIF period 2014-2020 a set of three questions was introduced in 2013. One new focus has been the use of Structural Funds by the LRAs and the Reports for the years 2013 and 2014 have shown that slightly more than half of all NRPs include this aspect. A second aspect concerns the LRA involvement in the preparation of Partnership Agreements on the implementation of the new Common Strategic Framework for Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 where the number of NRPs providing a direct reference to it has increased from 7 to 10 in 2014. The third and final question focussing on ESIF in 2014-2020 was quite specific and asked for references documenting the application of the Code of Conduct proposed by the EU Commission under the new CSF (which was mentioned only in one MS in 2013 and 2014).

The aspect of the preparation for the new ESIF period has been a focus for the years 2013 and 2014 (and has not been covered in 2015 anymore)

The question concerning ‘the role of LRAs in job creation and fighting youth unemployment’ was added in 2012. The question was added due to the continued economic difficulty in Europe. Direct reference to this question was found in only 44% of the NRPs in 2012 and has risen to 86% in 2014. In all reporting years, the UK has provided extensive references to LRA involvement in job creation and youth unemployment.

With a view to NRPs 2015: when looking at the role of LRAs in implementing the NRPs 14 NRPs (50%) highlight the role of LRAs in either labour market or employment or social inclusion policies. These are clearly the top-ranking sector policies where LRAs have a role in implementation in the NRP

4.5 Questions newly introduced for the Report 2014

In the Report for 2014 an additional set of questions has been introduced which has covered the following aspects:

- the reduction of administrative burden linked to the implementation of EU2020 – an issue in 20 NRPs (71%),
- the use of new instruments and approaches in financing which was mentioned in 10 NRPs representing 36%,
- initiatives for benchmarking, sharing of expertise – references have been found in 8 NRPs (29%).

A specific section in the 2014 Report has been dedicated to the Flagship Initiatives – in 18 NRPs a direct reference on the Initiatives was included.

These specific aspects have not been analysed in the 2015 Report

4.6 Questions newly introduced for the Report 2015

Three new dimensions were evaluated in the 2015 NRPs that were not evaluated in previous years. These are territorial dimensions 1) reflecting on challenges and needs concerning certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories, 2) the impact and coverage of policy measures on certain territories or LRAs and 3) specific policies targeting types of LRAs or territories.

The first dimension concerning challenges and needs was covered by 64% of the NRPs. Reference to the second dimension on impact and coverage was lower in the 2015 NRPs (39%). But in total 20 NRPs (71%) have included references to specific territorial policies targeting LRAs.

4.7 Major improvements which have become visible

In looking back over the reporting period starting with 2011 the Report in 2014 has highlighted a couple of features of the NRPs for which a marked improvement over time can be stated:

- The inclusion of specific sections or annexes on stakeholder involvement. These additional documents provide more in-depth detail on policies and programmes - however, one has to see that this aspect has been stressed in the Guidance Note of the Commission from 2013 for the first time.
- the increasingly concrete description of macro-economic and social developments - which corresponds to the increasing weight of complementary issues such as the increasing weight of job creation and combating youth unemployment;
- the increasingly concrete information on programmes and actions taken in response to the CSR – most probably also a result of the dialogue with the Commission and the implicit better mutual understanding about the information requirements;
- an increasing weight of rather pragmatic aspects such as administrative capacity and financial aspects.

These observations can be confirmed for the NRPs from the year 2015

Thus one might take the cautious conclusion that the overall effort put into the development of the NRPs appears to be increasing and that the sustained efforts to anchor LRAs more firmly in the NRP are taking effect. However, significant variations between the years show that there seem to be also issues which are treated once and not recurrently in every reporting year.

5 The 28 country fiches at a glance

This section comprises all 28 country fiches of the EU Member States analysing the current National Reform Programmes. The version presented in this study is the consolidated version to give an overview. It is based on an extended version including a justification column referring to the concrete parts in the Reform Programmes which was used for the comparative analysis.

The main output is also included in the presented shorter version, however including the long analysis would go beyond the scope of this paper. The long version for sure is available and was also delivered to the Committee of the Regions separately.

5.1 Country Fiche – Austria (AT)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Regions and their role	<p>Austria is a federal state consisting of nine federal provinces. Its constitution is typically republican-democratic and is based on a (moderately) federalist structure.</p> <p>The federal state (in constitutional terms: the super ordinate state; in Austria colloquially known as "Bund", i.e. "the federation") is in charge of key tasks such as federal legislation, external and defense policies as well as ordinary jurisdiction (i.e. courts of general jurisdiction).</p> <p>The Republic is divided into nine federal provinces ("Land"), which are also vested with legislative and executive powers.</p> <p>With regards to Structural Funds, programme implementation took place in a complex interplay between the Land and the federal level. ERDF implementation was integrated at regional level where nine federal states act independently.</p> <p>Regional administrative structures in each federal state increase administrative costs in this respect. A small share of the fund is managed centrally. Interaction between funds was lacking.</p> <p>As a result, In contrast to the 2007-2013 programming period, the number of ERDF OPs has been reduced from nine (eight for Regional Competitiveness and Employment regions - one per region - and one for a Convergence region) to one single OP resulting from the merger of different regional ERDF programmes into one programme coordinated centrally by a new Managing Authority (situated in the ÖROK). In the ESF, the number of Managing Authorities has been reduced from two to one.</p>	<p>Government official website</p> <p>National Reform Programme for Austria, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014</p>

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
Regional disparities in the MS	Gradient in GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average (capital region - highest – lowest): Vienna 164.91% – Salzburg 149.47% – Burgenland 86.62%	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
<i>Involvement of LRAs in the NRP</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Preparation Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?	The NRP acknowledges the representation and importance of LRA involvement in its preparation process, and cites specific discussions or working groups involved in the development process.	2
Implementation Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	The role of LRAs in implementation is typically in coordination with the federal government in the form of co-funding, and mostly in reference to three specific policy areas: health care, education and tax reform.	2
Europe 2020 Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?	Within the NRP itself, reference to LRA involvement in Europe 2020 targets is not comprehensive, with the exception of one reference to LRA involvement in response to a CSR regarding fiscal relations. The NRP generally cites the LRAs as having contributed to both reaching the national Europe 2020 targets and implementing the CSRs (only those that fall within their respective areas of responsibility). However, the NRP is accompanied by two annexes. Annex 2 provides a more in-depth report on the role of LRAs in the implementation of Europe 2020 targets and CSRs.	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway</p> <p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</p>	<p>There is a clear-cut role of the LRAs concerning healthcare policies. Furthermore, Annex 2 provides more in-depth information regarding the capacities of LRAs.</p>	<p>2</p>
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p> <p>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?</p>	<p>The NRP includes several clear references to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level in the sectors of health care and education. There also exists an article under the Austrian Federal Constitution which makes agreements between the federal and provincial governments binding for both institutions.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>Cooperation models</p> <p>Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</p>	<p>There is no direct mention of any Territorial Pacts in the NRP. However, the NRP does mention models of cooperation. In this case, this dimension overlaps with other dimensions such as ‘Implementation’ or ‘Administrative Capacity of LRAs’ as most of the policies implemented by the LRAs are in cooperation with the federal government.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>Wider partnership (multi-actorship)</p> <p>Reference to the involvement of</p>	<p>The NRP does mention wider partnerships mostly in reference to ‘social partners’. It references involvement of social partners in the areas of health care and education policies. More specific reference to wider partnership is made concerning higher education.</p>	<p>2</p>

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process		
Institutional capacity-building Clear point on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?	There is no direct mention of strengthening or expanding the capacity of LRAs in the main document. However, Annex 2 comprises a programme on advanced training for women in the Land of Salzburg.	1
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Challenges and needs Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?	Annex 2 lists concrete measures responding to territorial needs and challenges in a broad scope of fields: public finances, education, gender mainstreaming, employment, business environment, health, RTDI, energy and environment, and social inclusion.	2
Impact / Coverage Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?	The project table of Annex 2 to the NRP comprises a dedicated column on “estimated impacts of the measures” taking regional impact into consideration.	2
Specific policies Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?	Annex 2 provides a list of projects.	2

5.2 Country Fiche – Belgium (BE)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Regions and their role	<p>The Flemish Region (Flanders) and the Walloon Region (Wallonia) each comprise five provinces. The third region, Brussels-Capital Region, is not a province, nor does it contain any. It is roughly akin to a federal district. The three regions are further subdivided into 589 municipalities, which in general consist of several sub-municipalities.</p> <p>All these entities have geographical boundaries: the language areas, the communities, the regions, the provinces and the municipalities. The language areas have no offices or powers and exist de facto as geographical circumscriptions, serving only to delineate the empowered subdivisions. The institutional communities are thus equally geographically determined.</p> <p>All Communities thus have a precise and legally established area where they can exercise their competencies: the Flemish Community has legal authority (for its Community competencies) only within the Dutch language area (which coincides with the Flemish Region) and bilingual Brussels-Capital language area (which coincides with the Region by that name); the French-speaking Community analogously has powers only within the French language area of the Walloon Region and in the Brussels-Capital Region, and the German Community in the German language area, which is a small part of the province of Liège in the Walloon region, and borders Germany.</p> <p>The three regions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the Brussels-Capital Region (Brussels), ▪ the Flemish Region (Flanders), ▪ the Walloon Region (Wallonia). <p>The three communities are:</p>	<p>National Reform Programme, Belgium 2015.</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p> <p>http://www.vlaanderen.be/nl/publicaties/detail/flanders-outlook-2015-a-benchmarking-of-flanders-amongst-the-european-regions</p>

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the Dutch-speaking Vlaamse Gemeenschap ("Flemish Community"), ▪ the French-speaking Communauté Française ("French Community"), ▪ the German-speaking Deutschsprachige Gemeinschaft ("German-speaking Community"). <p>Looking at Structural funds, ERDF OP implementation was decentralised in 5 different regions with high autonomy and detached administration. According to the NRP, the governments concluded agreements on institutional reforms which materialized in the sixth state reform that entered into force on July 1st, 2014. The state reform increased the competences of the Regions and the Communities, further adding to the importance of good collaboration between the Federal government and the Regions and the Communities. Therefore, efforts will focus on this collaboration in order to raise the country's efficiency, all the while respecting the competences of every level of government. Both on the (inter)federal level and on the level of the Regions and the Communities, preparations were made to ensure a smooth transfer of competences.</p>	
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average (capital region - highest – lowest):</p> <p>Brussels 221.73% - Vlaams Brabant 127.04% - Hainaut 79.19%</p>	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
<i>Involvement of LRAs in the NRP</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
<p>Preparation</p> <p>Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?</p>	<p>The NRP explicitly mentions the involvement of actors at all levels of administration as well as social partners and civil society in the preparation process.</p> <p>More information about the drawing up of the national reform programme of Belgium can be found at http://www.be2020.eu.</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>Implementation</p> <p>Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	<p>The NRP sets out the general role of all administrative levels in Belgium in Box 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Federal state: taxation, wage formation, framework conditions. ▪ Regions (Flemish Region, Walloon Region, Brussels Capital Region): labour market policy, innovation, industrial policy, climate and energy ▪ Communities (Flemish Community, French Community, German-speaking Community): education, care. <p>In all the policy areas and measures addressed in the NRP, there is a description of the differences in the implementation process in each of the three Regions (Brussels Capital, Flanders, and Walloon Region).</p> <p>Communities, employment authorities and social partners are mentioned concerning education, employment and poverty.</p>	2
<p>Europe 2020</p> <p>Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?</p>	<p>In the section on the EU2020, the NRP mentions how the objectives are being achieved in each of the Regions. The local level is mentioned in the section on social protection (subsidies for the local fight against child poverty in Municipalities' Fund).</p>	2
<p>Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway</p> <p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and</p>	<p>Administrative capacity and measures to reduce administrative burden is described at the level of the Regions (Brussels Capital, Flanders, Walloon Region). The topic is addressed horizontally, throughout the document and across all policy fields, beyond specifically dedicated sections.</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</p>		
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p> <p>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?</p>	<p>Partnership is mentioned across all policy sectors, most explicitly in labour market and social policy (partnership between the public authorities, PES, relevant institutions and social partners). The NRP does repeatedly state that partnership is very important to policy-making in Belgium and all relevant partners are involved in developing new measures.</p>	2
<p>Cooperation models</p> <p>Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</p>	<p>The following cooperation models are worth mentioning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Flemish Community Commission (VGC) develops actions aimed at preventing premature school leavers which could qualify for financing from the European Social Fund. ▪ <i>The renewable energy action plan 2020</i> in Flanders is to be implemented in a cooperation partnership with the Federal Government and the other two regions. ▪ Flemish Cooperative Innovation Networks. 	2
<p>Wider partnership (multi-actorship)</p> <p>Reference to the</p>	<p>Wider partnership is mentioned across all policy sectors, most explicitly in labour market and social policy (partnership between the public authorities, PES, relevant institutions and social partners). There is no explicit mention of NGOs.</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process		
Institutional capacity-building Clear point on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?	The NRP mentions the plan to reduce administrative barriers, but there is no mention of administrative capacity per se.	1
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Challenges and needs Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?	The policies and measures are described in the context of each of the three Regions in Belgium (Brussels Capital, Flanders, and Walloon Region). In the section on Structural Funds implementation, the ERDF is said to concentrate on three specific territories in Flanders, namely GTI Limburg, GTI West-Flanders and GTI Kempen.	1
Impact / Coverage Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?	There is no mentioning of the impact of specific measures on certain territories as such. ⁶	0

⁶ Comment by the Department of Public Governance and the Chancellery of the Flemish Government: This is partly because the Regions and Communities in Belgium have exclusive or at least shared competencies with regard to the Europe 2020-objectives. The sixth state reform of Belgium entailed more competencies for the Regions and Communities. This explains why the Reform Programmes of the Regions and Communities have a very important place in the NRP.

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>Specific policies</p> <p>Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?</p>	<p>All the policies and measures planned are described by Region (Brussels Capital, Flanders, and Walloon Region). but only rarely are specific areas mentioned. Even then, LRAs are not mentioned.</p>	<p>1</p>

5.3 Country Fiche – Bulgaria (BG)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring						
Introductory information								
Regions and their role	<p>The territory of the Republic of Bulgaria is divided into regions and municipalities. In all Bulgaria has 28 regions, each headed by a regional governor appointed by the government. There are 265 municipalities.</p> <p>The Structural Fund OPs are centrally coordinated but take into account regional characteristics and priorities.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Bulgaria, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>						
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="566 970 1193 1074"> <tr> <td>National average</td> <td>46,58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital region/highest: Yugozapaden</td> <td>78,04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lowest: Severozapaden</td> <td>28,83</td> </tr> </table>	National average	46,58	Capital region/highest: Yugozapaden	78,04	Lowest: Severozapaden	28,83	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
National average	46,58							
Capital region/highest: Yugozapaden	78,04							
Lowest: Severozapaden	28,83							
Involvement of LRAs in the NRP								
<p>Preparation</p> <p>Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?</p>	<p>There is a chapter partly devoted to institutional issues and involvement of stakeholders in the preparation of the document.</p> <p>A working group for the preparation of the NRP is set up every year. The draft NRP is agreed between the members of the working group among which there are representatives of local and regional authorities.</p>	1						

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>Implementation</p> <p>Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers ▪ 	<p>LRAs are not mentioned explicitly, but the regional level is present in many of the envisaged measures described, such as new law on school education, employment promotion, service package for labour market integration and Roma integration through local action plans.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Europe 2020</p> <p>Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?</p>	<p>LRAs are not explicitly mentioned in the implementation of Europe 2020. The clearest mention is under the afore-described New law on school education: a package of interventions targeted to increase the employment among the vulnerable groups on the labour market including unemployed youth, low skilled and elderly workers, people with disabilities, long-term unemployed and Roma. This includes monitoring measures involving the close cooperation of local actors.⁷</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway</p> <p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any</p>	<p>The Third Action Plan for Reducing the Administrative Burden 2015–2017 is envisaged to be developed in 2015 in order to cut red tape and improve the business environment. The impact on various fields is described in the NRP (on businesses, on the judiciary system, on corruption, etc) but there is no mention of LRAs or the regional / local level.</p> <p>The reduction of administrative burden is also mentioned within specific policy areas, e.g.: accessibility and effectiveness of social services and transfers for children and older people needs. Reducing the administrative and regulatory burden in the provision of social services</p>	<p>1</p>

⁷ Comment by the Permanent Representation of Bulgaria to the EU in Brussels: Some of the measures included in the NRP are implemented at local level. Nevertheless this information is not presented in the document. It can be found in the legal, policy and/or strategic documents constituting the respective measure. In some cases such information is presented the Annex to the NRP in the columns presenting the progress achieved and the respective output.

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?	by private providers is also envisaged. A special Law on Social Services will be developed to improve planning, management, financing, quality and effectiveness of social services.	
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p> <p>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?</p>	<p>The NRP describes coordination mechanisms among the tiers of administration in the following policy sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction of an overall taxation strategy. ▪ Early school leavers. 	2
<p>Cooperation models</p> <p>Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</p>	<p>No such model is described in the NRP. The NRP generally describes that the fact that the launch of the 2015 European semester coincided with the beginning of the mandate of the government, helped set up and synchronise the national calendar with the European calendar for the development and implementation of policies. The government considers the active dialogue with the social and economic partners and non-governmental organisations as a key factor for effective cooperation and building a broad public consensus on the economic course of the country’s development.</p>	0
<p>Wider partnership (multi-actorship)</p> <p>Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process</p>	<p>The NRP states the general importance of partnership without going into detail on how partnership will be implemented. It is also mentioned in specific policy area measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provision of service package for labour market integration. ▪ Improving the efficiency of the Employment Agency. ▪ Long-term strategy for a pension system. ▪ Development of guidelines for changing the minimum salary. 	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>Institutional capacity-building</p> <p>Clear point on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?</p>	<p>The NRP sets out measures to improve the capacity of the Employment Agency.</p>	<p>2</p>
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
<p>Challenges and needs</p> <p>Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?</p>	<p>The NRP describes the challenges and needs in general and in different policy sectors, but it does not differentiate in detail between types of territories or specific geographic areas.</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>Impact / Coverage</p> <p>Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?</p>	<p>The NRP describes the impact of the policies and measures planned on the country without distinguishing between types of territories.</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>Specific policies</p> <p>Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?</p>	<p>No specific policies, measures or programmes are defined targeting types of LRAs.</p>	<p>0</p>

5.4 Country Fiche – Cyprus (CY)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
Introductory information		
Regions and their role	<p>Cyprus is divided into six districts, whose capitals share the same name. The districts are further divided up into municipalities. The districts of Cyprus are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Famagusta ▪ Kyrenia ▪ Larnaca ▪ Limassol ▪ Nicosia ▪ Paphos <p>Cyprus has an integrated regional system within existing public administration structures and mechanisms dealing with the planning and implementation of domestic development policy.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Cyprus, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>
Regional disparities in the MS	N/A (due to the administrative set-up and size) GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions Average: 94,23 %.	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
Involvement of LRAs in the NRP		
<p>Preparation</p> <p>Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?</p>	There is no description or mention of the preparation of the NRP.	0

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>Implementation</p> <p>Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	<p>There is no mention of LRAs in the NRP at all, possibly due to the small size of the country and the fact that the local level has less relevance and importance.</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>Europe 2020</p> <p>Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?</p>	<p>Again, there is no mention of LRAs at all. The NRP mentions other actors that are relevant in the field of the measures to be implemented (e.g. health centres and hospitals in measures related to health).</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway</p> <p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</p>	<p>The NRP describes in detail how to improve administrative capacity and reduce the administrative burden in the future.</p> <p>The Public Administration Reform services are to be modernised, better services are to be provided to the citizens, and a policy framework will be adopted that will utilise the available resources effectively and efficiently, using modern methods of administration.</p> <p>Local authorities are mentioned in the following way in this context:</p> <p>Public electronic services will be provided acknowledging that the provision of more e-services will stimulate demand and proliferate internet uptake; efforts were exerted for expediting the general reorganisation and modernisation of the public sector and of local authorities, with the widespread use of ICT which is another prime goal of the digital strategy.</p>	<p>1</p>

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p> <p>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?</p>	<p>There is no clear reference to any other tiers of administration or to social partners. However, for every measure the NRP describes generally which relevant actors will be involved (e.g. universities, businesses) and how.</p>	1
<p>Cooperation models</p> <p>Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</p>	<p>The only types of cooperation described relate to specific policy areas, e.g. the support for further cooperation between businesses and universities to increase business innovation. There is however no description of any cooperation models for the Europe 2020 or NRP implementation.</p>	1
<p>Wider partnership (multi-actorship)</p> <p>Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process</p>	<p>For every measure the NRP describes which types of relevant actors will be involved (e.g. universities, businesses, financial creditors) and how. NGOs are not mentioned.</p>	2
<p>Institutional capacity-building</p> <p>Clear point on institutional</p>	<p>The NRP describes the need and the plans to modernise the Public Employment Services (PES) for the provision of effective youth employment services (e.g. by enhancing the service capacity of the PES and providing information and guidance to the youth and by upgrading the PES information system).</p>	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
capacity-building anchored in the NRP?	<p>There is also a project for the Re-organisation and Improvement of the Administrative Capacity of the Public Service. This project, which is co-funded by the ESF with a timeframe of implementation between 2008 and 2015, aims inter alia at introducing benchmarking methodologies, using specific performance indicators.</p> <p>There is however no mention of the local or regional level, probably due to the size and administrative set-up of the country.</p>	
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Challenges and needs Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?	Probably due to the small size of the country and the administrative set-up, there is no mention of territorial challenges at a level below the national one.	0
Impact / Coverage Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?	The NRP describes the impact of the policies and measures planned in the country without distinguishing between types of territories, due to the size and administrative set-up of the country.	0
Specific policies Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?	No specific policies, measures or programmes are defined targeting types of LRAs, due to the size and administrative set-up of the country.	0

5.5 Country Fiche – Czech Republic (CZ)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
Introductory information		
Regions and their role	<p>The Czech Republic consists of thirteen regions (kraje) and one capital city (hlavní město) with regional status since 1 January 2000. The older seventy-three districts (okresy, singular okres) are still recognized and remain the seats of various branches of state administration such as the judicial system.</p> <p>The system is centralised but detached with regards to the share of competences. More precisely, European and domestic regional policies are managed and implemented separately with their own programming documents, own implementation system, rules and procedures.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for the Czech Republic, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average (capital region - highest – lowest):</p> <p>Prague 171.15% - Southeast 73.41% - Northwest 62.80%.</p>	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
Involvement of LRAs in the NRP		
<p>Preparation</p> <p>Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?</p>	<p>The preparation, creation, and evaluation of the NRP were made in cooperation and consultation with local governments, social partners, stakeholders, and other experts. From February to April 2015 a number of formal and informal discussions with all interest groups were held in order to have active dialogue concerning the direction of the NRP.</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>Implementation</p> <p>Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	<p>The NRP contains information regarding LRA involvement in the implementation of the NRP, for example in sections on employment, inclusiveness of education, childcare and social housing.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>Europe 2020</p> <p>Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?</p>	<p>The NRP contains a section dedicated to discussing its progress on Europe 2020 targets, ‘Progress in meeting national targets under the Europe 2020 strategy’. This section gives slight mention of LRA and stakeholder involvement in employment targets. Elsewhere in the NRP, LRA involvement concerning social inclusion is also briefly mentioned as one part of a larger strategy.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway</p> <p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</p>	<p>The NRP addresses the administrative capacity of LRAs in the area of employment, in that it recognises the importance of moving the responsibilities of employment centres to the district level.</p>	<p>2</p>

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p> <p>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?</p>	<p>The NRP includes several clear references to coordination and cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level, as well as other actors. These frameworks are mentioned in the context of the fiscal framework, the digital agenda and social services.</p>	2
<p>Cooperation models</p> <p>Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</p>	<p>There is no direct mention of any Territorial Pacts in the NRP. However, concerning the CSR on tax reforms, strengthening multilevel cooperation was emphasised. A special group, consisting of representatives from the financial administration, customs and police, was formed in order to combat tax evasion.</p>	2
<p>Wider partnership (multi-actorship)</p> <p>Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process</p>	<p>Wider partnership is mentioned in many areas throughout the NRP: preparation of the NRP, pension reform, eco-auditing, social services, and research and innovation. They are often mentioned in the context of having contributed to the development of various policies and strategies. Often the NRP is explicit in stating the type of partner involved.</p>	2
<p>Institutional capacity-building</p> <p>Clear point on institutional</p>	<p>The NRP does include clear examples of institutional capacity-building in areas such as childcare, employment and public administration. The NRP recognises the importance of this capacity-building order to improve institutional efficiency and quality within these areas.</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
capacity-building anchored in the NRP?		
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Challenges and needs Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?	The NRP does reflect on challenges and needs in reference to types of territories, specifically territories with poor transport infrastructure and territories with specific environmental concerns.	2
Impact / Coverage Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?	The Annexes 2 and 3 include the impact overview of individual measures (available only in Czech language). Measures with positive impact on certain territories include for example Contribution to Geographical Mobility (increase of employment in peripheral regions), Generational Tandem (increase in employment), social housing (savings in social benefits).	2
Specific policies Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?	The NRP mentions numerous programmes that are either regional in nature or that target specific types of regions. Those policies, which have a regional dimension, are in the areas of employment, education and energy. Specific regional targets include communities with socially excluded localities, mountain and foothill regions, and structurally affected regions. The majority of these programmes are government reforms beyond the CSRs.	2

5.6 Country Fiche – Germany (DE)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring								
Introductory information										
Regions and their role	<p>The Republic of Germany is made up of sixteen federal states, known as Bundesländer. Since Germany has a federal constitution, the constituent states retain a measure of sovereignty. With an emphasis on geographical conditions, Berlin and Hamburg are frequently called Stadtstaaten (city-states), as is the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen, which in fact includes the cities of Bremen and Bremerhaven. The remaining 13 states are called Flächenländer.</p> <p>Germany is a federal state with an integrated system with a dominant role of domestic policy.</p> <p>In Germany the implementation of the policies is by and large performed by the Länder as part of multiannual funding programmes. A total of 48 funding programmes are being put in place, focussing on specific regional and sectoral circumstances.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Germany, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>								
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average (capital region - highest – lowest):</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="562 1034 1366 1185"> <tr> <td>National average</td> <td>122,99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital region: Berlin</td> <td>112,77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Highest: Hamburg</td> <td>202,27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lowest: Mecklenburg-Vorpommern</td> <td>84,04</td> </tr> </table>	National average	122,99	Capital region: Berlin	112,77	Highest: Hamburg	202,27	Lowest: Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	84,04	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
National average	122,99									
Capital region: Berlin	112,77									
Highest: Hamburg	202,27									
Lowest: Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	84,04									
Involvement of LRAs in the NRP										
Preparation Representation of local and regional actors in the	As laid out in a dedicated chapter of the document, the German LRA were fully involved in the preparatory process of the NRP. The Länder Conferences of Specialised Ministers and the Joint Science Conference (GWK), coordinated by Brandenburg as the state currently	2								

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?	chairing the Conference of Minister-Presidents, delivered articles, statements and comments on draft versions of the NRP, which have been incorporated.	
Implementation Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	The specific role of the LRA, especially the Länder, but also the municipalities, in the implementation of the NRP and CSR is clearly stated throughout the document. The Länder play a key role in the implementation of the NRP and CSR due to the federal constitution of Germany. Policy areas where the LRA are involved include public finance, the labour market and competition.	2
Europe 2020 Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?	The specific role of the LRA, especially the Länder, but also the municipalities, in the implementation of the Europe 2020 is clearly stated throughout the document. The Länder play a key role in the implementation of Europe 2020 due to the federal constitution of Germany. Policy areas where the LRA are involved include employment, research and development and social inclusion.	2
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?	The administrative capacity of LRAs in relation to the implementation of NRP and EU 2020 is not explicitly mentioned in the document. However, with the federal constitution of Germany leaving ample responsibilities with the Länder, high administrative capacities and sufficient experience of the LRA can safely be assumed. Financial support of the Federal Government to the Länder is treated below under “Coordination among the tiers of administration”.	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p> <p>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?</p>	<p>The federal constitution of Germany forms the basis for the close cooperation between the Federal Government and the Länder. This cooperation is reflected implicitly and explicitly throughout the document. Elaborate mechanisms for tax equalisation between the levels of government exist and are constantly adapted according to the requirements, as is mentioned in the document regarding public investment, education and child care. Numerous examples of cooperation are mentioned, e.g. in the fields of budget and taxation, health, child care, education, research and innovation, labour market or rail passenger transport.</p>	2
<p>Cooperation models</p> <p>Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</p>	<p>Throughout the text, a variety of cooperation models is mentioned, especially in the fields of budget, health and education. Particularly interesting is the consulting process for drafting up the NRP itself with the involvement not only of the Länder but also of the social partners as well as organisations like the Federation of German Local Authority Associations and the Federal Association of Non-Statutory Welfare.</p>	2
<p>Wider partnership (multi-actorship)</p> <p>Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process</p>	<p>Especially in drafting the NRP 2015, a broad range of social partners was involved. Also specific actions like the 2015–2018 Alliance for Initial and Further Training (the former Training Pact), the Prevention Act (health care) or Training and Skills Development Programme for Elder Care explicitly mention the involvement of the social partners.</p>	2
<p>Institutional capacity-building</p> <p>Clear point on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?</p>	<p>The issue of e-government is raised for improving the efficiency of the tax system. Transparency issues are mentioned in the document in connection with certain administrative procedures concerning energy and welfare benefits. Transparency in public contract awarding for regional rail services is mentioned in connection with the transfer of the tasks to the Länder.</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Challenges and needs <i>Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?</i>	Under the “Actions to support the implementation of the country-specific recommendations”, numerous projects focused on certain Länder or municipalities are listed, mainly in the fields of education, labour market, child care and social inclusion.	2
Impact / Coverage <i>Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?</i>	Although not explicitly mentioned in the document, the direct involvement of the Länder in the process indirectly supports the assumption that the territorial impact of the measures has been taken into consideration.	0
Specific policies <i>Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?</i>	Under the “Actions to support the implementation of the country-specific recommendations” and “Actions to support the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy”, measures targeting specific types of regions or regional challenges are mentioned: a programme for disadvantaged urban neighbourhoods and location-specific Regional Innovation Strategies of the Länder that complement the High-tech Strategy at the Federal level.	2

5.7 Country Fiche – Denmark (DK)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Regions and their role	<p>Denmark is a federate state which has a strong central government but regions do have a certain degree of autonomy.</p> <p>Denmark is divided into five administrative regions. Danmarks Statistik has divided the five regions into eleven provinces. The provincial level is needed for statistical matters mainly. Regions are divided into provinces except for North Jutland, which isn't divided and the region there equals the province as well. The Capital Region is divided into four provinces, of which the Baltic Sea island Bornholm comprises one province. The Greater Copenhagen metropolitan area consists of the other three provinces in the Capital Region together with the province Eastern Zealand.</p> <p>The regions are further subdivided into 98 municipalities (kommuner).</p> <p>The regional administrative system is an integrated one, with a dominant role of domestic policy. There will be one ERDF OP, one ESF OP, one RDP and one EMFF OP in Denmark.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Denmark, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average:</p> <p>National average: 125,55.</p> <p>Capital region/ highest: Hovedstaden 152,62.</p> <p>Other NUTS region: Sjællands 87,88.</p>	<p>Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014</p>

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<i>Involvement of LRAs in the NRP</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Preparation Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?	LRAs were present in the preparation and drafting of the NRP in the form of the Contact Committee. This committee was established in 2001 and consists of approximately 30 regional and local authorities and a wide range of organisations with relevant interest in the NRP. The Contact Committee was involved in consultation and active dialogue in the areas of growth and employment. Furthermore, the committee submitted comments on the NRP, which are reflected and incorporated in the NRP, to the extent possible.	2
Implementation Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	The NRP cites LRAs as having an active role in implementing several policies including labour market initiatives and environmental sustainability. LRA involvement in labour market initiatives is rather vast, whereas it is more restricted in policies regarding environmental sustainability. The labour market initiatives are reforms in response to the CSR on promoting an inclusive labour market.	2
Europe 2020 Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?	The NRP contains a chapter dedicated to addressing Europe 2020 targets ('The National Targets in the Europe 2020 Strategy'). Within this chapter, the NRP mentions LRA involvement in the all of the national target areas: employment, research and development, climate and energy, education and social inclusion. The extent of LRA involvement within each area varies, with larger roles in employment, education and social inclusion, and smaller roles in research and development, and climate and energy.	2
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020	The NRP does cite administrative capacities of LRAs regarding employment efforts and inclusive education. However, these references are not particularly clear-cut or exhaustive.	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>pathway</p> <p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</p>		
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p> <p>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?</p>	<p>Throughout the NRP coordination between the national, regional, and local levels is evident. The NRP cites coordination between the central, municipal and regional governments concerning expenditure limits. Multi-level cooperation also exists in specific policies regarding employment, education, growth, climate and energy and social inclusion.</p>	2
<p>Cooperation models</p> <p>Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</p>	<p>There is no direct mention of any Territorial Pacts in the NRP. The NRP also does not explicitly refer to any specific models of cooperation between the central government and LRAs. However, as already provided in the previous dimension, ‘Coordination among the tiers of administration’ support and agreements on policies have been made between the multiple levels of governments</p>	1
<p>Wider partnership (multi-actorship)</p> <p>Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process</p>	<p>Reference to wider partnership is made throughout the NRP in the form of stakeholders, social partners, interested organisations and experts. Concerning social partners, it particularly mentions the Danish Confederation of Trade Unions (LO) and the Confederation of Danish Employers (DA). The area of education included high involvement of stakeholders and social partners.</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
Institutional capacity-building <i>Clear point on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?</i>	The NRP does remark on institutional capacity-building. For the most part, the need for capacity-building is recognised in Chapter 5 of the NRP, ‘Green, Economic and Social Sustainability’, where it is suggested to either expand on capacities or reduce redundancies in order to create more efficient and successful administrations.	2
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Challenges and needs <i>Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?</i>	The NRP does not reflect on territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories.	0
Impact / Coverage <i>Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?</i>	The NRP makes no reflection on how certain policies might have differing impacts on different territories.	0
Specific policies <i>Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?</i>	The NRP cites one programme that targets a specific area in Denmark. This programme is to combat air pollution by providing the city of Copenhagen with cleaner busses.	2

5.8 Country Fiche – Estonia (EE)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
Introductory information		
Regions and their role	<p>Estonia is divided into fifteen counties (Maakonnad), which are the administrative subdivisions of the country.</p> <p>A maakond (county) is the biggest administrative subdivision. The county government (Maavalitsus) of each county is led by a county governor (Maavanem), who represents the national government at the regional level.</p> <p>Estonia has an integrated, unitary regional administrative system.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Estonia, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>
Regional disparities in the MS	N/A (due to the administrative set-up and size) GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions Average: 69,28 %.	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
Involvement of LRAs in the NRP		
<p>Preparation</p> <p>Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?</p>	There is no description at all to the preparation of the NRP in Estonia in the official document.	0
<p>Implementation</p> <p>Is the role of local and regional</p>	LRAs are mentioned generally in some of the plans described in the NRP in connection with the activities planned in the sectors of education, competitive business environment,	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	<p>environmentally friendly economy, energy and sustainable and adaptive public sector. The mentions mainly reflect the status of LRAs as the target group of certain activities implemented by the central government.</p> <p>Additionally, the NRP refers directly to the need for better cooperation with local government institutions under the labour supply priority.</p>	
<p>Europe 2020</p> <p>Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?</p>	<p>In the section on the achievement of the Europe 2020 objectives, there is no explicit reference to the role of LRAs.</p>	0
<p>Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway</p> <p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</p>	<p>The official document of the NRP mentions the need for enhancing the capabilities of LRAs under the competitive business environment objective, specifically in dealing with regional investor service. And also there is mention of the need to raise the public sector R&D capability and Estonia’s capacity to contribute to international cooperation in general. The action plan however does not refer to the capacities of the LRAs.</p>	2
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p>	<p>The NRP mentions developing several coordination systems, in the field of labour market and R&D development. However, there is no clear or explicit description of coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level.</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?	The NRP mentions the local authorities reform planned and under current implementation.	
Cooperation models Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?	No cooperation models explicitly mentioned in the NRP.	0
Wider partnership (multi-actorship) Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process	The importance of cooperation element is mentioned in the fields of labour market and business environment development.	1
Institutional capacity-building Clear point on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?	There is mention of LRAs capabilities in the regional investor service field. In the R&D area the official document of the NRP mentions the need to increase the capacity of universities to internationalise. However, there is no clear or explicit description of institutional capacity building.	0

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Challenges and needs Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?	In the NRP there are several references to the territorial challenges in the education, business environment and energy sectors in the North-eastern Estonia (more specifically Ida-Viru county: spatial planning, quality of the education system, international competitiveness of the local companies) but also South-eastern Estonia (mainly regarding international competitiveness of the local companies) and urban areas in general (access to pre-school and child care services, health related behaviour), with specific reference to the cities of Ida-Viru county (energy intensity). Also the NRP refers to the challenges in rural areas regarding broadband internet connections.	2
Impact / Coverage Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?	No, the impact of planned policy measures on certain territories or LRAs is not mentioned.	0
Specific policies Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?	Yes, specific measures are foreseen to target types of LRAs (cities, urban areas) and specific LRAs (in Ida-Viru county).	2

5.9 Country Fiche – Spain (ES)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring								
<i>Introductory information</i>										
Regions and their role	<p>In Spain, an autonomous community is a first-level political and administrative division, created in accordance with the Spanish constitution of 1978, with the aim of guaranteeing the autonomy of the nationalities and regions that comprise the Spanish nation.</p> <p>Since sovereignty resides in the nation as a whole—and is represented in the state-wide or central institutions of government—and not in the communities, Spain is not a federation but a highly decentralized unitary state that has asymmetrically devolved power to the communities, which in turn exercise their right to self-government within the limits set forth in the constitution and their autonomous statutes.</p> <p>There are 17 autonomous communities and two autonomous cities that are collectively known as "autonomies". The two autonomous cities have the right to become autonomous communities, but neither has yet utilized this right. This unique framework of territorial administration is known as the "State of Autonomies".</p> <p>The autonomous communities are governed according to the constitution and their own organic laws known as Statutes of Autonomy, which contain all the competences that they assume. Since devolution was intended to be asymmetrical in nature, the scope of competences varies for each community, but all have the same parliamentary structure. Spain follows a devolved, integrated regional system, with a dominant role of domestic policy.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Spain, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>								
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="562 1217 1144 1398"> <tr> <td>National average</td> <td>96,49</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital region: Comunidad de Madrid</td> <td>125,80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Highest: País Vasco</td> <td>129,64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lowest: Andalucía</td> <td>72,82</td> </tr> </table>	National average	96,49	Capital region: Comunidad de Madrid	125,80	Highest: País Vasco	129,64	Lowest: Andalucía	72,82	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
National average	96,49									
Capital region: Comunidad de Madrid	125,80									
Highest: País Vasco	129,64									
Lowest: Andalucía	72,82									

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<i>Involvement of LRAs in the NRP</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Preparation Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?	The Autonomous Communities were consulted and participated in active dialogue with the preparatory process of the NRP	2
Implementation Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	Autonomous Communities (CAs) were consulted in the elaboration process of the NRP. The main Fields of consultation in which CAs participated were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ tax consolidation, ▪ active employment policies, ▪ education, ▪ poverty and social inclusion, ▪ measures for growth and improvement of competition. 	2
Europe 2020 Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?	The NRP is explicit in describing the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020. The role and position of the (CAs) is referred in Chapter on "Progresses to Reach the National Objectives of the EU 2020 Strategy") namely in two areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employment: planning, coordination and evaluation of employment policies to modernise and strengthen the efficacy of employment services. ▪ Education: implementing a new plan for the reduction of early school failure. 	2
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the	The NRP refers to the administrative capacity of LRAs in reference to public administration reform at both the national and local level, particularly by	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>NRP and the EU 2020 pathway</p> <p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ restructuring and rationalisation of public sector bodies; ▪ rationalisation, centralisation in contracting and incentive of electronic contracting; ▪ management of services and common instruments; ▪ improvement of public management; ▪ reform of local administration (Law 27/2013), based on a systematic analysis of expenditure and suppressing the double use of services; ▪ common administrative procedures (electronic support) to foster and simplify administrative procedures. 	
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p> <p>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?</p>	<p>The NRP does cite coordination among the tiers of administration in the context of public administration reform, tax equalisation, employment policies and fiscal policies.</p>	2
<p>Cooperation models</p> <p>Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</p>	<p>The NRP cites several areas of cooperation: tax consolidation, active employment policies, education, poverty and social inclusion and growth and competition.</p> <p>The forms of cooperation are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Institutional Framework: "CORA" (Commission for the Reform of Public Administration), Office for the Administrative Reform" (OPERA); Independent Authority for Tax Responsibility (AIREF) (financial aspects). ▪ Legal Framework for administrative simplification and transparency (Administrative Procedure Law; Legal Status of Public Sector; Reform of the Public Contracts Law). ▪ Programming documents e.g.: ("Annual Plans for Employment support"; "Strategy for Entrepreneurship and Youth Employment". 	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>Wider partnership (multi-actorship)</p> <p>Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process</p>	<p>Social Partners participation is basically referred in the preparation phase of the NRP.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Institutional capacity-building</p> <p>Clear point on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?</p>	<p>Institutional capacity-building is demonstrated in the Spanish Public Administrations Reforms promoted by the CORA (Commission for the Reform of Public Administration), and creation of an "Office for the Administrative Reform" (OPERA) to implement, monitor and evaluate the CORA Measures. The main reforms are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ restructuring and rationalisation of public sector bodies; ▪ rationalisation, centralisation in contracting and incentive of electronic contracting; ▪ management of services and common instruments; ▪ improvement of public management; ▪ reform of local administration (Law 27/2013), based on a systematic analysis of expenditure and suppressing the double use of services; ▪ common administrative procedures (electronic support) to foster and simplify administrative procedures. 	<p>2</p>
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
<p>Challenges and needs</p> <p>Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?</p>	<p>The challenges and needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories are mentioned in the NRP.</p> <p>The NRP makes general reference to the Autonomous Communities (CAs) as main territorial bases of intervention. Implementation of policy measures is referred to for CAs, in Annex Document I, but generically (e.g. "CAs lagging behind in implementation"). Measures cited as having challenges or needs are in the areas of:</p>	<p>2</p>

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ improvement of transparency and control of invoices; ▪ financial mechanisms supporting territorial administration - eradication of morosity; ▪ fight against illegal employment and fraud in social security. 	
<p>Impact / Coverage</p> <p>Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?</p>	<p>The NRP partially refers to the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories or LRAs. For example, in the case of CORA and the implementation of OPERA, the NRP acknowledges that specific measures still have to be transferred to CAs.</p> <p>Specific territorial coverage is additionally referred to in Annex Document I.</p>	2
<p>Specific policies</p> <p>Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?</p>	<p>The NRP discusses specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs or territories. The Territorial Base of intervention of Spanish NRP is the Autonomous Communities Level (CAs). Generally speaking this concerns all CAs. No additional typology is used (such as Rural Peripheral, Industrial areas etc).</p> <p>For very specific policy measures of the NRP see Annex Document I.</p>	1

5.10 Country Fiche – Finland (FI)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring						
Introductory information								
Regions and their role	<p>As of 2013, Finland is divided into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 19 regions (Finnish maakunta, Swedish landskap), ▪ the regions are divided into 70 sub-regions (Finnish seutukunta, Swedish ekonomisk region), ▪ the sub-regions are divided into 320 municipalities (Finnish kunta, Swedish kommun). <p>Finland is a federate state which has a strong central government but regions do have a certain degree of autonomy.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Finland, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>						
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="566 962 1742 1110"> <tr> <td>National average</td> <td style="text-align: right;">115,87</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital region/highest: Helsinki-Uusimaa</td> <td style="text-align: right;">152,96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lowest: Pohjois- ja Itä-Suomi</td> <td style="text-align: right;">95,16</td> </tr> </table>	National average	115,87	Capital region/highest: Helsinki-Uusimaa	152,96	Lowest: Pohjois- ja Itä-Suomi	95,16	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
National average	115,87							
Capital region/highest: Helsinki-Uusimaa	152,96							
Lowest: Pohjois- ja Itä-Suomi	95,16							
Involvement of LRAs in the NRP								
<p>Preparation</p> <p>Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the</p>	<p>The NRP makes very little mention of LRA involvement in the preparation process. There is one sentence where it mentions presenting the NRP to social partners.</p>	0						

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?		
<p>Implementation</p> <p>Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	The NRP does mention the role of LRAs in the implementation of the NRP and CSRs namely in the context of financing different policies regarding labour market support and infrastructure.	2
<p>Europe 2020</p> <p>Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?</p>	The NRP contains a section in the report dedicated to addressing Europe 2020 targets, 'Progress in attaining the Europe 2020 Strategy's national targets'. Within this section the NRP addresses the areas of employment, research and development, climate and energy and education. LRA involvement is mentioned in the areas of employment and climate and energy, and not at all in the remaining areas.	2
<p>Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway</p> <p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</p>	The NRP briefly mentions that LRAs in Finland have extensive responsibilities for arranging basic public services.	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p> <p>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?</p>	<p>Cooperation between the central government and local governments is cited throughout the NRP in the areas of employment, competition and investment.</p>	2
<p>Cooperation models</p> <p>Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</p>	<p>Two examples of cooperation models were cited in the NRP. The first is a multi-sector joint service aimed at promoting employment. The second is a regional cooperation model for companies and apprenticeship training providers.</p>	2
<p>Wider partnership (multi-actorship)</p> <p>Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process</p>	<p>The NRP does cite wider partnership throughout the document in the context of the labour market and the private sector. The NRP mostly states the type of partner involved (e.g. labour market organisations, regional business services, private service providers, publically-funded organisations) but rarely states specific partners involved.</p>	2
<p>Institutional capacity-building</p> <p>Clear point on institutional</p>	<p>The NRP does recognise and mention the need to build the capacities of various LRAs in the context of social and health care services, employment and immigration.</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
capacity-building anchored in the NRP?		
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
<p>Challenges and needs</p> <p>Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?</p>	<p>The NRP includes a section dedicated to addressing administrative reforms concerning the structure of the local government, which was a CSR. The NRP recognises the need to reform this structure as the number of municipalities in Finland is large and they have very extensive responsibilities for arranging basic public services. In order to reconcile this issue initiatives have been made to create joint municipal authorities and therefore decrease the large number of municipalities. Specific duties would then be allocated to these larger joint municipal authorities.</p>	2
<p>Impact / Coverage</p> <p>Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?</p>	<p>The NRP makes no reflection on how certain policies might have differing impacts on different territory.</p>	0
<p>Specific policies</p> <p>Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?</p>	<p>The NRP cites two programmes that target specific regions in Finland or that are regional in nature. These two programmes are the ‘Sustainable Growth and Work’ programme, which targets Eastern and Northern Finland, and Finland’s Structural Fund Programme, which targets urban centres. These two programmes are both mentioned in the same section of the document, ‘Other reform measures and use of Structural Funds’.</p>	2

5.11 Country Fiche – France (FR)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring						
Introductory information								
Regions and their role	<p>The administrative divisions of France are concerned with the institutional and territorial organization of French territory. There are many administrative divisions, which may have political, electoral (districts), or administrative (decentralized services of the state) objectives.</p> <p>As of January 2015, metropolitan France is divided into the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 22 regions, including Corsica; although Corsica is formally a territorial collectivity, it is considered equivalent to a region. (local authority). ▪ The regions are subdivided into 96 departments. (local authority). ▪ The departments are subdivided into 323 arrondissements. (not a public or legal entity). <p>With regards to structural funds, the implementation is integrated within the regions in the sense that the management and implementation are generally carried out by the same authorities.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for France, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>						
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="566 1034 1317 1145"> <tr> <td>National average</td> <td>109,19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital region/highest: Ile de France</td> <td>181,87</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lowest: Reunion</td> <td>52,55</td> </tr> </table>	National average	109,19	Capital region/highest: Ile de France	181,87	Lowest: Reunion	52,55	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
National average	109,19							
Capital region/highest: Ile de France	181,87							
Lowest: Reunion	52,55							
Involvement of LRAs in the NRP								
<p>Preparation</p> <p>Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the</p>	<p>An Annex provides information on the involvement of partners in the preparation of the NRP and provides the statements in full length. Among the institutions mentioned are also several institutions relevant for LRAs such as the Council of Mayors as well as the Council of Mayors of Major Cities and the Association of Cities and other associations.</p>	<p>Overall score</p> <p>2</p>						

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?		
<p>Implementation</p> <p>Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	<p>The NRP draws 7 recommendations. For each recommendation, there is a description of how they are planned to be implemented.</p> <p>Recommendation 1 consists in strengthening the budgetary strategy. Within one of the measures foreseen, evaluations are to be carried out to test possible scenarios, involving public actors at local level (not only in public administrations but also in public services such as hospitals). Moreover, an evaluation is being carried out since 09/2014 to assess the role of government representatives at local levels in view of increasing the efficiency of public administrations.</p> <p>Recommendation 2 “Simplifying the administrative, fiscal and accounting rules of enterprises” includes several measures aiming to reduce the administrative burden and bureaucratic steps; this concerns LRAs, as well as other actors at local level.</p> <p>Recommendation 6 “Improving the functioning of the labour market, social dialogue and training” mentions LRAs mainly in the measures planned to lower revenue taxes, reform unemployment insurance systems.</p>	2
<p>Europe 2020</p> <p>Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?</p>	<p>In the section on the achievement of the Europe 2020 objectives, there is no explicit reference to the role of LRAs.</p>	0
<p>Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020</p>	<p>Yes, LRAs are almost exclusively mentioned in the context of administrative capacity. See question 2 above.</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>pathway</p> <p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</p>		
<i>Partnership and MLG</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p> <p>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?</p>	<p>The NRP mentions the territorial reforms planned and under current implementation (see above). In the context of the proposed measures to be carried out in the NRP, it mentions some committees e.g. in the field of employment and social policy where authorities at various different levels cooperate with e.g. social partners.</p>	2
<p>Cooperation models</p> <p>Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</p>	<p>No cooperation models besides the general territorial administration and the committees mentioned above.</p>	1
<p>Wider partnership (multi-actorship)</p> <p>Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social</p>	<p>Social partners are mentioned in each recommendation and therefore in all the policy areas addressed. The following examples are the most prominent ones:</p> <p>Recommendation 1: social partners are involved in negotiating taxes and ensuring that jobs are being created.</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process</p>	<p>Recommendation 6: Social partners are involved in the negotiations of salaries and working hours.</p> <p>Social partners are also involved in the negotiations in view of ensuring that a balance is restored in the pension systems.</p> <p>Recommendation 7 (Modernising education and professional training and ensuring access for the most vulnerable groups): Again, the dialogue with social partners is to be ensured in order to get as much information as possible from different actors involved.</p> <p>Dialogue and negotiations with social partners are also listed as key steps in the implementation of recommendations in relevant tables included in the annex.</p>	
<p>Institutional capacity-building</p> <p>Clear point on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?</p>	<p>There is mention of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Administrative capacity (see above). ▪ Human capacity / training but not of public services per se. 	0
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
<p>Challenges and needs</p> <p>Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?</p>	<p>There is no mention of specific territories, but the NRP focuses a lot on the territorial reforms planned (see above).</p>	0
<p>Impact / Coverage</p> <p>Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?</p>	<p>No, the impact of planned policy measures on certain territories or LRAs is not mentioned (except for administrative changes due to reforms in the territorial administrative system as described above).</p>	0

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>Specific policies</p> <p>Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?</p>	<p>No, the NRP does not include any specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs; rather, it describes the planned changes in different policy fields and the measures envisaged to achieve them.</p>	<p>0</p>

5.12 Country Fiche – Greece (EL)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring						
Introductory information								
Regions and their role	<p>Greece is internally administered through a system of 7 decentralized administrations, 13 regions and 325 municipalities. The regions and municipalities are fully self-governed. The decentralized administrations are run by a general secretary appointed by the Greek Government.</p> <p>The Structural Funds are managed in an integrated system at central level (Management Organisation Unit - MOU); and in a detached manner at regional level.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Greece, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>						
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions</p> <p>(capital region – highest – lowest):</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="562 1034 1048 1145"> <tr> <td>National average</td> <td>79,88</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital region: Attiki</td> <td>107,48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lowest: Ipeiros</td> <td>55,20</td> </tr> </table>	National average	79,88	Capital region: Attiki	107,48	Lowest: Ipeiros	55,20	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
National average	79,88							
Capital region: Attiki	107,48							
Lowest: Ipeiros	55,20							
Involvement of LRAs in the NRP								
<p>Preparation</p> <p>Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the</p>	The participation of LRAs in the preparation of the document is not mentioned.	0						

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?</p>		
<p>Implementation</p> <p>Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	<p>An important point is that the NRP of Greece does not follow the scheme of the other NRPs. According to the different structure, there are no separate chapters for CSR and Europe 2020 targets. Instead, the document is structured along the chapters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Macroeconomic environment and macroeconomic imbalances. ▪ Reforms to promote entrepreneurship and competitiveness. ▪ Public administration. ▪ Education. ▪ Labour market – poverty. ▪ Research and development. ▪ Environmental targets. <p>For this reason, both dimensions, “Implementation” and “Europe 2020”, are summarised here.</p> <p>The role of LRAs is generally mentioned in the contexts of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ reforms to promote entrepreneurship and competitiveness in connection with the management of European Structural and Investment Funds that should focus on local communities; ▪ regional education services; ▪ energy saving programmes for local authorities. <p>Concerning social inclusion, Regional Strategies for Social Inclusion (PESKE) elaborated by the regional authorities and prerequisite for ESF funding are cited. A programme for employing people temporarily in Municipalities and Regions is described in detail.</p>	<p>2</p>

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
	See also below under “Cooperation among the tiers of administration” and “Wider partnership” where the role of LRAs is highlighted regarding evaluating tertiary education, Centres for Lifelong learning and in combating undeclared work.	
<p>Europe 2020</p> <p>Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?</p>	See above under “Implementation”	2
<p>Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway</p> <p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</p>	<p>Shortcomings in administrative processes concerning European Structural and Investment Funds as well as public procurement in general are openly discussed. LRAs are not explicitly mentioned in the context.</p> <p>The impact of a pilot programme on “Guaranteed Social Income” on operational capacity of municipalities will be evaluated (see below under “Impact/coverage”).</p>	2
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p> <p>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?</p>	Cooperation between administrative levels in Greece is mentioned in the context of education (joint review of the efficiency of tertiary education) and labour market where the Government intends to start negotiations with trade unions and LRAs in order to combat undeclared and uninsured work.	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
Cooperation models <i>Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</i>	Several projects based on cooperation between different administrative levels or with NGOs and other stakeholders exist, especially in the field of education (reviewing tertiary education, Centres for Lifelong Learning).	2
Wider partnership (multi-actorship) <i>Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process</i>	The involvement of the social partners is mentioned in the context of education where the network of Centres for Lifelong Learning shall be strengthened by involving LRAs, social partners and NGOs. Concerning the labour market, the framework for collective bargaining of the social partners shall be strengthened including minimum wages. Cooperation with the social partners is regarded as crucial in the fight against unemployment. The OP of the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived at prefectural level was initiated including all agencies dealing with poverty and vulnerable groups with local authorities as leaders.	2
Institutional capacity-building <i>Clear point on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?</i>	A whole chapter is dedicated to public administration reform listing detailed measures including human resources and capacity building. Critical points are seen in public procurement, transparency and e-government. The crucial role of institutional capacity of LRAs for sustainable development and the PA 2014-2020 is explicitly mentioned.	2
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Challenges and needs <i>Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?</i>	Territorial challenges are mentioned in a general way (“areas which suffer from unemployment rates that far exceed the national average”).	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>Impact / Coverage</p> <p>Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?</p>	<p>The resources provided by the Structural Funds are regarded as insufficient and not focused enough to efficiently combat unemployment and poverty.</p> <p>The impact of a pilot programme on “Guaranteed Social Income” will be evaluated regarding social and economic criteria, efficiency of the implementation procedures and the impact on operational capacity of municipalities and other services involved.</p> <p>The application of a support programme on small and medium-sized photovoltaic systems (lowering the electricity bill via feeding the energy back into the grid) is differentiated between the mainland, Crete and the other non-connected islands.</p> <p>The impact on the local economy and quality of life of the citizens of calls for the improvement of energy efficiency of public buildings is highlighted.</p>	2
<p>Specific policies</p> <p>Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?</p>	<p>When discussing Structural and Cohesion Funds, smart specialisation as a place-based approach is highlighted. Support for the development of sustainable urban transport is mentioned.</p> <p>Local Plans for Employment (TopSA) and Local Actions Integration for Vulnerable Social Groups are implemented in regions particularly affected by the economic crisis. Regional funds are used for the support of regional research infrastructures.</p>	2

5.13 Country Fiche – Croatia (HR)⁸

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Regions and their role	<p>Regional policy is a relatively new field of public policy in Croatia that has become very important.</p> <p>According to the NRP, the Government is initiating the rationalisation of the system of legal entities with public authorities and commits to reduce their number by at least 15 %, as well as to introduce a unique law that lays down and regulates criteria for their establishment, internal organisation, operation and supervision by October 2015. Also, the aim is to rationalise the regional units of central state administration bodies and reduce their number by 20 % (the first instance state administration bodies will merge with state administration offices in counties, starting from regional units that perform inspections). In this way, the fragmentation will be reduced and efficiency of treatment of citizens will be increased.</p> <p>The Government is aware that division of responsibilities and decentralised public services is suboptimally distributed to a total of 576 municipalities and cities at local level and counties at regional level, which in many cases fail to successfully ensure effective implementation of public functions in their jurisdiction due to level of their development, fiscal and administrative capacity or size. Therefore, incentive mechanism of voluntary mergers and better coordination of local and county (regional) self-government units shall be established</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Croatia, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>

⁸ Comment from the Association of Cities in the Republic of Croatia:

Generally speaking, things have not improved consultation-wise since the last year, at least in case of NRP preparation.

The representatives of local and regional authorities are not appropriately consulted according to the European charter on local self-government or EU partnership principle.

This is especially evident in the findings of Economic and Social Council (where no LRA representatives are present!) on the necessary territorial reform of LRA system.

So far there has been no official calls from the Government to participate in the process or to comment draft documents on the set of incentive mechanisms for further voluntary mergers or improved coordination between municipalities.

Taking into account that and other external political factors (the upcoming parliamentary elections), it is hard to expect such instruments to be properly discussed and adopted by proposed target date.

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring						
	by October 2015, along with parallel development of the new, more rational model of allocation of tasks and authorities.							
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>With the widening disparities between the most prosperous and the lagging areas, regional policy should become one of the most important public policies in the following period, according to the NRP.</p> <p>Gradient in GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average :</p> <table data-bbox="562 603 1352 746"> <tr> <td>National average</td> <td>60,94 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital region/highest: Kontinentalna Hrvatska</td> <td>62,05 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lower: Jadranska Hrvatska</td> <td>58,67 %</td> </tr> </table>	National average	60,94 %	Capital region/highest: Kontinentalna Hrvatska	62,05 %	Lower: Jadranska Hrvatska	58,67 %	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
National average	60,94 %							
Capital region/highest: Kontinentalna Hrvatska	62,05 %							
Lower: Jadranska Hrvatska	58,67 %							
<i>Involvement of LRAs in the NRP</i>		<i>Overall score</i>						
<p>Preparation</p> <p>Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?</p>	<p>The National Reform Programme 2015 was prepared by the Working Group for Coordination of Participation of the Republic of Croatia in the European Semester. LRAs are not represented in the Economic and Social Council (ESC) which is the main consultative body in developing the key policy objectives in the framework of the NRP. As part of the partnership with the ESC, the social partners were given the possibility to include in the process of drafting the NRP through defining their own proposals for measures. One of the major conclusions of the ESC has been the need for a comprehensive administrative reform at all levels.</p> <p>All in all LRAs have not been represented in the preparatory process.</p>	0						
<p>Implementation</p> <p>Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly</p>	<p>The first steps towards a more firm role of the LRAs in the implementation of major policy fields is the ongoing reform of legislation and administration which focuses on the following main objectives with a view to the local self-governments:</p>	2						

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ reform of the system for the collection of fees; ▪ an Act stipulating a more transparent financial management and budgetary discipline of companies and agencies owned by LRAs; ▪ the role of LRAs in the reform of the public health sector (reform and investment plans for polyclinics etc.). <p>A second major aspect – highlighted in the NRP - which does foresee an increasing role of LRAs, is the implementation of ESIF where LRAs will be in the position of beneficiaries in a broad variety of programmes.</p>	
<p>Europe 2020</p> <p>Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?</p>	<p>There is one specific reference to a policy field: measures are implemented in the social welfare system aimed at alleviating the status of homeless persons and other vulnerable groups by providing projects and programmes financed by the LRAs and EU funds as well as from other sources.</p>	2
<p>Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway</p> <p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</p>	<p>The introduction of the NRP points at the awareness that responsibilities are sub-optimally distributed at local and regional levels. Thus a major reform process is intended which should foresee a better match between responsibilities on the one hand and fiscal as well as administrative capacities on the other hand.</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p> <p>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?</p>	<p>One of the legal fundamentals for LRAs in Croatia is the so-called Act on LRAs dating from 10 April 2001 which describes the major competencies of LRAs.</p> <p>The new Public Internal Financial Control System Act will determine in detail who is responsible for the management of the State Budget and the budget of the LRAs (as has been already mentioned in the section on implementation).</p>	2
<p>Cooperation models</p> <p>Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</p>	<p>The introductory part of the NRP refers to the mismatch between responsibilities and capacities at the level of the 576 local municipalities as well as the regions. Therefore it is intended to establish by autumn 2015 a set of incentive mechanisms in order to further voluntary mergers or improve coordination between municipalities. Thus capacity and service delivery and the financing of major public amenities should be improved.</p>	2
<p>Wider partnership (multi-actorship)</p> <p>Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process</p>	<p>The Economic and Social Council (ESC) was established in order to determine and realize coordinated activities with the aim of protecting and promoting economic and social rights and interests of workers and employers, as well as pursuing harmonized economic, social and development policies. It has been recognized as such even in the context of implementation of activities in the framework of the European Semester and NRP drafting.</p> <p>A specific policy area where the role of social partners is explicitly mentioned is the monitoring of the so-called New Labour Act which governs labour market policy.</p>	2
<p>Institutional capacity-building</p> <p>Clear point on institutional</p>	<p>The NRP points at capacity-building in several areas which are of crucial importance in the administrative reform process. These are areas such as:</p>	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
capacity-building anchored in the NRP?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Administration of ESIF ▪ Labour Market Services ▪ System of internal control in public institutions ▪ Supreme Audit Office 	
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Challenges and needs Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?	The policy area with a specific reference to the most deprived areas in Croatia is the public health sector: the Government intends to encourage specialized physicians to work in deprived areas by granting them scholarships and covering their life expenses.	2
Impact / Coverage Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?	Cannot be identified in the NRP.	0
Specific policies Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?	A specific reference is the intent to use ITI in order to improve the situation in deprived urban neighbourhoods. The strategy on ITIs foresees the active participation of seven cities.	2

5.14 Country Fiche – Hungary (HU)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring								
<i>Introductory information</i>										
Regions and their role	<p>Administratively, Hungary is divided into 19 counties (megye, plural megyék). In addition, the capital (főváros), Budapest, is independent of any county government. The counties and the capital are the 20 NUTS third-level units of Hungary.</p> <p>With regards to regional policy, Hungary has an integrated system with a dominant role of Cohesion Policy.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Hungary, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>								
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions (capital region - highest – lowest):</p> <table data-bbox="562 997 1070 1145"> <tr> <td>National average</td> <td>67,25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital region/highest:</td> <td>109,94</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Közép-Magyarország</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lowest: Észak-Magyarország</td> <td>39,99</td> </tr> </table>	National average	67,25	Capital region/highest:	109,94	Közép-Magyarország		Lowest: Észak-Magyarország	39,99	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
National average	67,25									
Capital region/highest:	109,94									
Közép-Magyarország										
Lowest: Észak-Magyarország	39,99									
<i>Involvement of LRAs in the NRP</i>										
<p>Preparation</p> <p>Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the</p>	The NRP does not describe the preparation process. It only mentions that the policies and measures planned across policies were developed in a participatory process.	0								

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?		
Implementation Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	The policies and planned measures are described at government level or with respect to those actors relevant to the particular policies (e.g. enterprises). Explicit mention of local governments is rare, such as in the case of “client-profiling system of job seekers”.	1
Europe 2020 Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?	In the section on Europe 2020, the NRP only mentions LRAs with regards to social inclusion measures. More precisely, the NRP argues that in view of strengthening the inclusion of Roma, there should be more cooperation at regional and local level. In addition, it mentions the measure “Professional and methodological support of local and regional programmes enhancing children’s chances”. The programme contributes to developing an approach at the level of local projects, which, on the one hand enhances the strength of self-care of the families bringing up children and parental safety, and on the other hand it creates a real cooperation between the local actors dealing with children (professionals and decision-makers, civilian, religious and state, local government organisations).	2
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020	There is general mention of the plan to increase institutional capacity and the capacity of administrative staff in the NRP.	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>pathway</p> <p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</p>		
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p> <p>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?</p>	<p>The only coordination framework described in detail in this respect is one that is part of the Youth Guarantee, within the public employment service (institutional and intra-organisational coordination of the tools, thus improving cooperation between employment, educational, social policies and organisations).</p> <p>However the NRP does mention in general terms that the actors from all levels of administration work together to develop future policies and measures.</p>	2
<p>Cooperation models</p> <p>Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</p>	See above (Youth Guarantee).	2
<p>Wider partnership (multi-actorship)</p> <p>Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social</p>	<p>Wider partnership is mentioned in the following policy areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employment. ▪ Education. ▪ Health. 	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process	NGOs are not mentioned explicitly.	
Institutional capacity-building Clear point on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?	There is general mention of the plan to increase institutional capacity and the capacity of administrative staff in the NRP.	1
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Challenges and needs Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?	The NRP mentions the challenges in relation to the policy fields (e.g. social integration in particular of the Roma, education and early school leaving) and to the fact that some areas are more concerning than others.	2
Impact / Coverage Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?	No, the impact is described with regards to the policy goals to be achieved, but not on the territories.	0
Specific policies Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?	The NRP mentions the fact that some areas are more concerned than others (e.g. by the social exclusion of Roma), but it does not refer to any particular areas.	0

5.15 Country Fiche – Ireland (IE)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions – marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Regions and their role	<p>There are 26 county level, 3 city level and 2 city and county entities that are used to demarcate areas of local government in the Republic. Ireland is however a unitary country with an Integrated system, meaning that the implementation bodies for national and EU policy are largely the same.</p> <p>Consolidation of regional structures from eight regional authorities and two regional assemblies into three regional assemblies has been progressed. The first phase in this restructuring involved the dissolution of the eight former regional authorities with effect from 1 June 2014 and transfer of their functions to the two existing regional assemblies. The process was completed with the making of an order establishing a third regional assembly (Eastern and Midlands) with effect from 1 January 2015.</p> <p>The new assemblies incorporate the functions of both the former regional authorities assemblies, with significant enhancement of some powers, particularly in relation to spatial planning and economic development, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A stronger role in economic development through the adoption of Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies, which will replace the regional planning guidelines. ▪ Linking local economic development with regional and national planning through oversight of Local Economic and Community Plans ▪ Management of EU structural funds programmes (ERDF) and ad hoc EU-funded projects, and linkage between these functions and spatial and economic strategy. 	<p>National Reform Programme of Ireland</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions – marked in red)	Source / Scoring
Regional disparities in the MS	Gradient in GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions (capital region - highest – lowest): National average 128,85 Capital region/highest: Southern and Eastern 144,76 Lowest: Border, Midland and Western 85,90	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
<i>Involvement of LRAs in the NRP</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Preparation Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?	A dedicated chapter lists the activities for stakeholder involvement, explicitly mentioning LRAs.	2
Implementation Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	Main policy areas with a reference to local authorities are clustered in the social agenda – mostly the CSR 4 - activation of so-called low work intensity households: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ social housing support will be reorganised (the rent supplement scheme will be replaced by housing assistance payments provided by local authorities), ▪ SICAP – see under the section on cooperation models 	2
Europe 2020 Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for	The role of local authorities in the NRP is restricted to specific policy areas with a concentration on the social agenda – e.g. reduction of child poverty.	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions – marked in red)	Source / Scoring
implementation of Europe 2020?		
<p>Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway</p> <p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</p>	<p>A rather general reference to the Civil Service Renewal Plan is made – the Plan has been introduced in 2014 and foresees also elements of capacity-building.</p>	2
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p> <p>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?</p>	<p>The strongest policy lever for LRAs mentioned in the NRP is the new requirement for local authorities to set-up Local Economic and Community Plans – the Plans should be developed in partnership with economic and community development stakeholders.</p> <p>Also referring to economic development support at local level is the establishment of the network of Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs).</p>	2
<p>Cooperation models</p> <p>Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</p>	<p>The major focus for broader cooperation is labour market activation and measures addressing low work intensity households and child poverty. Important policy levers are either community-based or intend to involve the local level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ community-based employment programmes, ▪ Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) aiming to tackle poverty through local engagement and partnership. 	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions – marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>Wider partnership (multi-actorship)</p> <p>Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process</p>	<p>During the elaboration of the NRP the involvement of multi-actorship has been the strongest in the social agenda (consultation workshops of the Department for Social Protection, Social Inclusion Forum)</p> <p>Three major specific areas point at the involvement of a wider partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Climate action ▪ Action to combat child poverty ▪ Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP) <p>In the context of the achievements towards EU 2020 the approach to a national position on climate action and low carbon development a broadly based public consultation process has been run in order to collect a variety of ideas and options – this has been the basis for the General Scheme of the Climate Action and the Low Carbon Bill. The subsequent five-yearly iterative national strategy for adaptation measures to mitigate the adverse consequences of climate change shall involve the local authorities.</p> <p>Children and Young People’s Services Committees (CYPSCs) are considered as local planning model to improve living conditions through integrated planning and service delivery. The CYPSCs involve a broad partnership of agencies and organisations.</p>	2
<p>Institutional capacity-building</p> <p>Clear point on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?</p>	<p>No particular reference to institutional capacity-building is made.</p>	0

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions – marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Challenges and needs <i>Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?</i>	EU 2020: the section on combating poverty refers to certain regions (Border, South East and West) which reveal the highest shares of consistent poverty.	2
Impact / Coverage <i>Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?</i>	With a view to EU 2020 targets for education the reform programme in higher education refers to the development of regional clusters of higher education institutions in order to improve the delivery of education programmes to students and to strengthen the links with industry.	2
Specific policies <i>Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?</i>	Specific territorial approaches cover the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Labour market activation ▪ Reduction of child poverty as area-based approach ▪ Housing policies for Dublin Related to CSR on Labour Market Activation: Action Plan for Jobs (APJ) published in 2015 should focus on regional development and measures to support domestic economy – the main pillar is to support regional agencies and organisations in implementing tailored strategies – each of the eight regions is requested to develop an Action Plan until Q3 of 2015. Related to poverty reduction for EU 2020: Area Based Childhood Programmes should work primarily in deprived areas where child poverty is a particular challenge. A housing supply task force for Dublin hints at the challenges related to housing supply in the largest Irish conurbation – the task force involves the four local authorities of Dublin.	2

5.16 Country Fiche – Italy (IT)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring								
<i>Introductory information</i>										
Regions and their role	<p>The regions of Italy are the first-level administrative divisions of the country, constituting its second NUTS administrative level. There are 20 regions, of which five are constitutionally given a broader amount of autonomy granted by special statutes. Each region, except for the Aosta Valley, was divided into provinces.</p> <p>Italy therefore follows a devolved regional policy system, with separate decision-making for ERDF and national funding; regional decision making is detached from central policy level.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Italy, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>								
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions</p> <p>(capital region - highest – lowest):</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>National average</td> <td>101,63</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital region: Lazio</td> <td>116,93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Highest: Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano/Bozen</td> <td>147,35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lowest: Calabria</td> <td>64,19</td> </tr> </table>	National average	101,63	Capital region: Lazio	116,93	Highest: Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano/Bozen	147,35	Lowest: Calabria	64,19	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
National average	101,63									
Capital region: Lazio	116,93									
Highest: Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano/Bozen	147,35									
Lowest: Calabria	64,19									

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<i>Involvement of LRAs in the NRP</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
<p>Preparation</p> <p>Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?</p>	<p>There is no explicit description of LRA involvement in the preparation process of the NRP but there are references on the conferenza stato regioni throughout the document. In particular there is stated the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ conferenza stato regioni on 22th of January 2015 has approved the Agricoltura PLAN 2.0, a package of measure to make agriculture more 'digital'; ▪ conferenza stato regioni in February 2015 has approved the reduction of expenses (riduzione delle spese, i.e. the budget available for PA) by 5.2 billion euro, following the provision of the stability pact; ▪ conferenza stato regioni on 16th of January has approved the budget for the Common Agricultural Policy 2014-2020. <p>There obviously was involvement of LRAs, though (apart from what is mentioned above) it is not explicitly mentioned in the document</p>	1
<p>Implementation</p> <p>Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	<p>LRA are often mentioned as the target group or implementer of several actions envisaged in the NRP.</p> <p>Some of the actions that envisage the active role of LRAs in the implementation of the NRP are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ transparency of performances (i.e. publishing online administrative performance of the municipality); ▪ rationalise and simplify the local tax system; ▪ reorganisation of public partnership and their reorganisation; ▪ stability pact. 	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
Europe 2020 <i>Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?</i>	The role of LRAs is mentioned for the TO3, where it is mentioned that their involvement has been strengthened regarding environmental and energetic sustainability (including through which the covenant of mayors).	2
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway <i>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</i>	There is only reference to strengthening administrative capacity but no mention is made on the administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and EU 2020.	1
<i>Partnership and MLG</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Coordination among the tiers of administration <i>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?</i>	Reference to coordination among the tiers of administration in the NRP is made on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The coordination in the land and sub-soil management. ▪ To re-launch the inner areas of the country. ▪ Culture and tourism. ▪ Health care. Also in order to coordinate the EU policy, recently the Agency for Territorial Cohesion was established, under the surveillance of the Italian council presidency. This agency can be considered a structure that acts as coordinating body for cohesion policy and EU funding. Committees that exist are:	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ one on environmental taxation; ▪ one inter-ministerial for European Affairs (CIAE), which has bridged the decision process made at EU level with those at the national one; ▪ Surveillance committee on the operation programme; ▪ Inter-ministerial committee on bio-fuels; ▪ (strengthening administrative plan) PRA Steering Committee, aimed at monitoring the implementation of policy with regard to rationalisation and administrative improvements. 	
<p>Cooperation models</p> <p>Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</p>	<p>Concerning cooperation, references are made on tax evasion, RDI, tourism and culture.</p> <p>Specifically, at the end of 2014, a permanent round table was set up between the ministry for cultural heritage and the Italian municipalities' association, in order to discuss innovative solutions in the field of managing the cultural offer in cities and coordinating activities among municipalities (e.g. timetable of museums, coordinated box-office as well as marketing campaigns).</p> <p>As for taxes, an administrative cooperation agreement was signed at the beginning of 2015 with Monaco, Liechtenstein and Holy See against tax evasion.</p>	2
<p>Wider partnership (multi-actorship)</p> <p>Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process</p>	<p>Within the national programme for research 2014-2020, there is the intention to create stable public-private collaboration with enterprises and civil society. However, there is no reference on their role.</p>	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>Institutional capacity-building</p> <p>Clear point on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?</p>	<p>One of the actions of the NRP envisages the strengthening of administrative capacity especially towards a better utilisation of ESI funds.</p> <p>Reference is made on multi-level governance and more generally on strengthening and modernisation actions of the public administration, especially in the following fields: transparency and open government, enhancement of public administration performances, reduction of administrative burden for enterprises, efficiency and quality of judicial system (i.e. court), prevention and fighting against corruption (TO11 related themes). Worth mentioning is that Italy has a National Operational Programme Governance and administrative capacity that was approved in Feb 2015 by the EC.</p>	1
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
<p>Challenges and needs</p> <p>Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?</p>	<p>There are no highlights in the document on certain territories or particular needs for certain LRAs.</p>	0
<p>Impact / Coverage</p> <p>Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?</p>	<p>The impact of reform measures is only given on a macroeconomic national level. The impact of planned policy measures on certain territories or LRAs is not mentioned.</p>	0
<p>Specific policies</p> <p>Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?</p>	<p>The NRP does not include any specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs</p>	0

5.17 Country Fiche – Lithuania (LT)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Regions and their role	<p>Lithuania is divided into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 10 counties, each named after their principal city; ▪ the counties are subdivided into 60 municipalities. There are three types of municipalities: ▪ 43 district municipalities. They roughly correspond to districts that existed under the Soviet rule; ▪ 7 city municipalities. They are situated around major or important cities. ▪ 10 municipalities; ▪ municipalities consist of over 500 elderships <p>Each municipality's government is elected in democratic elections of municipality councils. The elections used to take place every three years, but now they are held every four years. The municipality mayors are elected by municipality councils. Also, municipality councils appoint elders to be in charge of an eldership. Currently it is proposed that both mayors and elders should be elected in direct elections.</p> <p>Counties were ruled by apskritis viršininkas (officially translated as "governor") who was appointed by the central government in Vilnius. Their primary duty was to ensure that the municipalities obey the laws of Lithuania and the constitution. They did not have great powers vested in them, and so it was suggested that 10 counties are too much for Lithuania (the smallest county has only four municipalities).</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Lithuania, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
	It was proposed to replace the counties with four or five lands, a new administrative unit that would be decided according to the ethnographic regions of Lithuania and based on the five major cities. On 1 July 2010, the county administrations were abolished, and since that date, counties remain as the territorial and statistical units. In terms of regional policy Lithuania is a unitary, integrated system with a dominant role of CP.	
Regional disparities in the MS	N/A (due to the administrative set-up and size) GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions national average: 67,58 %.	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
<i>Involvement of LRAs in the NRP</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Preparation Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?	The NRP 2015 was drawn up by an inter-institutional working group comprising representatives of ministries, the Bank of Lithuania and Statistics Lithuania. The Minister of Economy coordinated the preparation of the NRP. There is no reference to the participation of LRAs in the inter-institutional working group.	0
Implementation Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	The NRP points out the area of poverty reduction and social care as areas where the local level should have an increasing role in the forthcoming years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ one major focus is social housing, ▪ the other is social assistance for the most deprived parts of the population. The NRP does not provide a clear explanation to the financing framework for this task. The involvement of LRAs is not mentioned in any other policy areas.	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>Europe 2020</p> <p>Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?</p>	<p>In the section on Europe 2020 the involvement of the local level focuses on social and health care aspects and also education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In the framework of the National Programme for Social Integration of the Disabled social rehabilitation projects have been the subject of a nationwide tender addressing the municipalities. ▪ A second major point is the establishment of public health care offices at the local level. ▪ A third point mentioned in the context of Europe 2020 is the furthering of cooperation between local communities and educational institutions for the preparation and implementation of education programmes. 	2
<p>Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway</p> <p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</p>	<p>The issue of administrative capacity is addressed in the NRP from the perspective of a reduction of the administrative burden – in order to make state services better accessible for citizens and remove impediments for entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Despite the increasing role of the local level in social and health issues, capacity-building is not explicitly mentioned (except the fact that public health offices had to be opened at the local level).</p> <p>A second aspect is the gradual extension of e-government: this is a major aspect of the strategy to modernise public administration (also with an explicit view to the absorption of ESIF); a very concrete example is the introduction of e-procurement.</p>	1
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p> <p>Does the NRP include a clear</p>	<p>An explicit reference is made on the intent to strengthen cooperation between local authorities and the Labour Offices in order to ensure target-oriented and efficient use of social funds.</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?	A second area where such coordination frameworks exist is public health care (see above).	
Cooperation models Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?	The government has encouraged inter-municipal cooperation in public health care.	2
Wider partnership (multi-actorship) Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process	Tie inter-institutional working group working on the NRP has involved a wider partnership; the NRP mentions two consultation meeting held in March 2015. In line with the strong focus on health and social care for the local level a strong impetus was given to NGOs working on the social agenda – in 2014 the focus has been on support to elderly citizens.	2
Institutional capacity-building Clear point on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?	Strengthening of local self-government is a focus of institutional capacity-building. A specific programme seeks to support a variety of activities in this sense and to activate local communities, in particular in developing and improving public amenities. A second point has been the promotion of entrepreneurship; a thematic field between economic and in part also social aspects (such as developing options for self-employment for the unemployed) where NGOs have been involved (see also below – local employment initiatives).	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Challenges and needs <i>Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?</i>	Cannot be identified in the NRP.	0
Impact / Coverage <i>Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?</i>	Annex 2 to the NRP contains a detailed description of the implementation progress of the measures; however, the impact on LRAs or certain territories is not mentioned.	0
Specific policies <i>Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?</i>	In parallel to the general intent to strengthen local self-governments in health and social care an effort has been made to trigger local employment initiatives in those areas where unemployment rates are particularly high.	2

5.18 Country Fiche – Luxembourg (LU)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
Introductory information		
Regions and their role	<p>Luxembourg is divided into three districts, which are divided into twelve cantons, which are divided communes. A dozen of the communes have city status, and one, Luxembourg City, is further divided into quarters.</p> <p>With regards to regional policy, Luxembourg is a unitary state which follows an integrated system at central level with a dominant role of domestic policy.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Luxembourg, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>
Regional disparities in the MS	N/A (due to the administrative set-up and size) GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions national average: 266,05%.	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
Involvement of LRAs in the NRP		
<p>Preparation</p> <p>Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?</p>	<p>There is no detailed description, but the NRP does state that the document was developed in consultation with relevant partners.</p> <p>It also states that a draft law will create a "National Economic and Financial Committee" under the tutelage of the Ministry of the Economy and the Ministry of Finance, whose particular objective is to coordinate the drafting of the NRP, the SGP and the DBP by optimizing the collaboration between the various ministerial departments and administrations.</p>	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>Implementation</p> <p>Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	<p>First, it should be noted that LU is a very small country where LRAs do not have the same proportional role as in other countries.</p> <p>The NRP mentions the local level or municipalities in two contexts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ climate change / environmental policy: The “Climate Pact” empowers the State to provide financial and technical support to communities, who are members of the pact. <p>This law authorises the government to financially and technically support municipalities that were members to it between 2013-2020. The goals to be achieved consist in strengthening communities’ roles in climate policy, reducing GHG emissions and the energy bill in municipality territories and stimulating local and regional investment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Labour market policy, in particular youth guarantees: The implementation involves ADEM, the National Youth Service (SNJ), the Professional Training Department and Local Youth Action (ALJ), the Adult Training Department, as well as the Ministry of Labour, Employment and the Social and Solidarity Economy and the Ministry of Education, of Children and Youth. In addition to these institutions, other entities are strongly involved in the guarantee mechanism, especially the Social-Professional Guidance Centres (Centres d’Orientation Socio-Professionnelle -COSP), the youth centres and other local organisations. 	2
<p>Europe 2020</p> <p>Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?</p>	<p>In this section, the NRP refers to local authorities with regards to the aforementioned Climate pact and Youth Guarantees.</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway</p> <p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</p>	<p>The NRP sets out the following plans but it does not refer to LRAs in specific:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ setting up an inter-ministry platform, drafting the "Omnibus" law to modify several dozen legislative clauses and through the vote in March 2015 on civil service reform, in order to provide a modern public service that is capable of meeting expectations in terms of quality and efficiency. ▪ Managing the age pyramid in Luxembourg's civil service: the National Institute of Public Administration (INAP) has incorporated training addressing older government workers and dealing with aspects such as preventive and overall health management, well-being on the job and strategies for maintaining proper balance between professional and private lives. 	1
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p> <p>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?</p>	<p>The NRP refers to coordination among the tiers of administration in the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The NRP describes a multi-sector and multi-actor approach to promote better use of resources and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, through cooperation between the State, local actors, inhabitants and economic players ▪ As stated in question 1, the NRP also states that a draft law will create a "National Economic and Financial Committee" under the tutelage of the Ministry of the Economy and the Ministry of Finance, whose particular objective is to coordinate the drafting of the NRP, the SGP and the DBP by optimizing the collaboration between the various ministerial departments and administrations. ▪ Coordination is also foreseen in the nursing sector. ▪ The government is seeking improved coordination of employment and poverty reduction policies (through the ESF), but there is not more detail about the plans in 	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
	<p>this respect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordination at inter-ministerial level to improve the working conditions for women. 	
<p>Cooperation models</p> <p>Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</p>	<p>The NRP states that a draft law will create a "National Economic and Financial Committee" under the tutelage of the Ministry of the Economy and the Ministry of Finance, whose particular objective is to coordinate the drafting of the NRP, the SGP and the DBP by optimizing the collaboration between the various ministerial departments and administrations.</p> <p>The most refined model of cooperation described in the NRP is the one established in the context of youth guarantees: the implementation involves ADEM, the National Youth Service (SNJ), the Professional Training Department and Local Youth Action (ALJ), the Adult Training Department, as well as the Ministry of Labour, Employment and the Social and Solidarity Economy and the Ministry of Education, of Children and Youth. In addition to these institutions, other entities are strongly involved in the guarantee mechanism, especially the Social-Professional Guidance Centres (Centres d'Orientation Socio-Professionnelle -COSP), the youth centres and other local organisations.</p>	2
<p>Wider partnership (multi-actorship)</p> <p>Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process</p>	<p>Multi-actorship is present in the report, although it is often only generally described.</p> <p>The NRP does mention how policies and measures are to be implemented through the involvement of relevant actors within the given policy (e.g. research institutes in the realisation of research and technology transfer cooperation).</p> <p>In general, social actors are most involved in labour market measures, e.g.: Dialogue is encouraged within different decision-making bodies such as the Tripartite Coordination Committee, the Economic and Social Council (ESC) and the Permanent Committee for Labour and Employment, as well as for social dialogue at sector and corporate levels. A draft law to reform social dialogue within companies was submitted to Parliament in</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
	February 2015 and is currently in the legislative process. The law seeks to modernise, simplify and adapt legal measures concerning social dialogue within companies, with the purpose of improving the quality of dialogue.	
Institutional capacity-building <i>Clear point on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?</i>	The NRP sets out the following plans to strengthen administrative capacity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ setting up an inter-ministry platform, drafting the "Omnibus" law to modify several dozen legislative clauses and through the vote in March 2015 on civil service reform, in order to provide a modern public service that is capable of meeting expectations in terms of quality and efficiency. ▪ Managing the age pyramid in Luxembourg's civil service: the National Institute of Public Administration (INAP) has incorporated training addressing older government workers and dealing with aspects such as preventive and overall health management, well-being on the job and strategies for maintaining proper balance between professional and private lives. 	1
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Challenges and needs <i>Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?</i>	Probably due to the small size of the country and the administrative set-up, there is no mention of territorial challenges at a level below the national one. Municipalities are mentioned, but no types of challenges are described.	0
Impact / Coverage <i>Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?</i>	The NRP describes the impact of the policies and measures planned on the country without distinguishing between types of territories, due to the size and administrative set-up of the country.	0

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>Specific policies</p> <p>Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?</p>	<p>No specific policies, measures or programmes are defined targeting types of LRAs, due to the size and administrative set-up of the country.</p>	<p>0</p>

5.19 Country Fiche – Latvia (LV)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
Introductory information		
Regions and their role	<p>According to the Administrative territorial reform of Latvia, the country changed its administrative division from two-level municipalities (the districts were the first-level municipalities, while towns, cities, towns countryside territories and parishes were the second-level municipalities) to one-level municipalities - districts were liquidated, but towns, towns countryside territories and parishes were merged into 110 municipalities and there are 9 republican cities with own city council and administration.</p> <p>In terms of regional policy, Latvia is a unitary, integrated system with a dominant role of Cohesion Policy.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Latvia, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>
Regional disparities in the MS	N/A (due to the administrative set-up and size) GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions national average: 59,86 %.	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
Involvement of LRAs in the NRP		
<p>Preparation</p> <p>Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?</p>	The NRP cites LRAs and social partners as having taken part in the preparation and discussion of the document.	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>Implementation</p> <p>Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	<p>The NRP does cite LRA involvement in its implementation in the context of employment, social security, investment, the digital agenda and infrastructure. Although the LRAs do not play a dominant role in these areas, their presence in the implementation of various policies can be seen.</p>	2
<p>Europe 2020</p> <p>Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?</p>	<p>The NRP did not include a specific section dedicated solely to addressing Latvia's progress in and implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy. However, reference to LRA involvement in relation to the Europe 2020 Strategy can be seen throughout the document mostly in the context of education, but also briefly concerning climate and energy.</p>	2
<p>Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway</p> <p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</p>	<p>The NRP mentions the administrative capacities of LRAs in the implementation of youth employment measures and poverty and social inclusion measures.</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
Coordination among the tiers of administration <i>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?</i>	The NRP does not contain many clear references to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level. It does reference some coordination between the government and other partners.	1
Cooperation models <i>Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</i>	The NRP does not reference specific models of cooperation or Territorial Pacts.	0
Wider partnership (multi-actorship) <i>Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process</i>	Wider partnership is mentioned frequently throughout the NRP in the context of policy evaluation. Social partners are often mentioned having involvement in various types of councils, such as the Foreign Economic Policy Coordination Council, the Coordination Council for Large and Strategically Important Investment Projects, Sectoral Expert Councils, the Advisory Council for Limiting Shadow Economy. The specificity of the social partner mentioned varies.	2
Institutional capacity-building <i>Clear point on institutional</i>	The NRP makes many references to incentives to build and improve the capacity of the local governments. These incentives are found in many contexts, mostly education, public services, investment and social services.	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
capacity-building anchored in the NRP?		
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Challenges and needs Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?	The NRP does reference some challenges and need referring to certain LRAs or territories. References are made concerning infrastructure in areas with poor road conditions and education in areas with expected increases in residents and births.	2
Impact / Coverage Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?	The NRP mentions a regional difference between rural areas and cities and town in the impact of measures to reduce early school leavers.	2
Specific policies Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?	The NRP cites several policies that either target specific regions or are regional in nature. These policies fall within the areas of infrastructure improvements in cities, regional research and development and employment measures in rural communities.	2

5.20 Country Fiche – Malta (MT)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
Introductory information		
Regions and their role	<p>Malta has been subdivided into 68 local councils, meaning municipalities. These form the most basic form of local government and there are no intermediate levels between it and the national level. The levels of the 6 districts (5 on the main island) and of the 3 regions (2 on the main island) serve statistical purposes.</p> <p>With regards to regional policy, Malta is a unitary state which follows an integrated system at central level with a dominant role of domestic policy.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Malta, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>
Regional disparities in the MS	N/A (due to the administrative set-up and size) GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions national average: 85,61%.	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
Involvement of LRAs in the NRP		
<p>Preparation</p> <p>Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?</p>	The involvement of the stakeholders including LRA is explained in a dedicated chapter.	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>Implementation</p> <p>Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	<p>LRAs are only mentioned at one point when measures on the energy sector concerning support of photovoltaic systems are presented.</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Europe 2020</p> <p>Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?</p>	<p>LRAs are not mentioned in the Europe 2020 section of the document.</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway</p> <p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</p>	<p>The administrative capacity of LRAs is not mentioned in the document.</p>	<p>0</p>

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p> <p>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?</p>	<p>The topic of coordination among the tiers of administration is not mentioned in the document.</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>Cooperation models</p> <p>Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</p>	<p>No cooperation models comparable to Territorial Pacts are mentioned.</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>Wider partnership (multi-actorship)</p> <p>Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process</p>	<p>Specific measures involving wider partnerships are mentioned in the sections on Euro Plus Pact measures and flagship initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “ICT Competencies for better employability and workforce adaptability” (training by various training centres operated by NGOs, Local Councils and public agencies). ▪ A new Conventions Bureau for the organisation of congresses and conferences established by Ministry for Tourism (MoT), Malta Tourism Authority (MTA), Malta Hotels & Restaurant Association (MHRA) and other industry stakeholders. ▪ eSkills Malta Foundation (multi-stakeholder initiative by Government, education and industry). 	<p>2</p>

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ R&I incentives for the industry (grants and fiscal benefits, financed by Structural Funds) e.g. the construction of Life Sciences Park 2 , new or upgraded research infrastructures and facilities at the University of Malta, post-graduate schemes, industry grant schemes.” ▪ Malta Enterprise (ME): key industrial strategy driver mainly promoting direct investment also links education and training institutions with the industry. 	
<p>Institutional capacity-building</p> <p>Clear point on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?</p>	<p>The Governmental Centre for Development, Research and Training (CDRT) will offer training courses to public employees covering several aspects of the procurement cycle.</p> <p>The introduction of e-government is expected to increase accessibility and transparency. The transition to e-procurement for tenders below the EU threshold required ad-hoc-training of the competent staff within all ministries.</p>	1
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
<p>Challenges and needs</p> <p>Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?</p>	<p>Specific territories are highlighted in the main document in the context of five infrastructure projects funded by the European Fund for Strategic Investments, the construction of a new law court building in Gozo and the detailed listing of RTDI projects.</p>	2
<p>Impact / Coverage</p> <p>Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?</p>	<p>The Annex comprises tables listing the policy measures including a short qualitative impact assessment for each individual measure.</p> <p>The impacts listed in Annex 1, Table 1 “Description of the measure taken and information on their qualitative impact” concerning the NRP, column “Foreseen Impacts - Qualitative Elements”, also comprise impact on certain territories like Gozo or Cottonera. The same applies to Annex 2, Table 2 “Reporting table on national Europe 2020 targets” dedicates a column on “The estimated impacts of the measures (qualitative and/or quantitative)” and</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
	Annex 3, Table 3 “Reporting on main reform plans for the next 12 months”, column “The estimated impacts of the measures (qualitative and/or quantitative)”.	
<p>Specific policies</p> <p>Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?</p>	<p>Five infrastructure projects funded by the European Fund for Strategic Investments are mentioned. Further projects are described under Euro Plus Pact Measures, flagship initiatives. Co-funding of many measures in the NRP by Structural Funds (ERDF and ESF), the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Fisheries Fund is referred to. The detailed lists of measures presented in the Annexes include specific policy measures, especially in the infrastructure sector.</p>	2

5.21 Country Fiche – Netherlands (NL)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<i>Introductory information</i>		
Regions and their role	<p>A Dutch province represents the administrative layer in the Netherlands between the national government and the local municipalities, having the responsibility for matters of subnational or regional importance.</p> <p>The government of each province consists of three major parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the Provinciale Staten which is the provincial parliament elected every four years. The number of members depends on the number of inhabitants of the province, and varies in 2015 between 39 and 55. Being a member is a part-time job. The main task of Provinciale Staten is to check the work of Gedeputeerde Staten; ▪ the Gedeputeerde Staten, a college elected from among the members of the Provinciale Staten and charged with most executive tasks. Each province has between 3 and 7 deputies, each having their own task. The task of Gedeputeerde Staten is the overall management of the province; ▪ the Commissaris van de Koning, a single person who is appointed by the Crown and presides over the Gedeputeerde Staten as well as over the Provinciale Staten. The commissioner is appointed for 6 years, after which period reappointment for another 6 years is possible; <p>The Netherlands are a federate state meaning the country has a strong central government but regions do have a certain degree of autonomy. With regards to regional policy, the system is detached, meaning that the management structures are specifically dedicated to the delivery of ERDF through specific channels and structures.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for the Netherlands, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
Regional disparities in the MS	Gradient in GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions (capital region - highest – lowest): National average 129,47 Capital region: Noord-Holland 145,99 Highest: Groningen 181,76 Lowest: Flevoland 94,31	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
<i>Involvement of LRAs in the NRP</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Preparation Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?	The NRP gives clear reference to the involvement of LRAs in the preparation and drafting of the document. The NRP devotes a chapter within the document, Ch. 5 Stakeholder Involvement, to address the role of LRAs in the NRP.	2
Implementation Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	Although not cited extensively in the NRP, the document is accompanied by an annex ('Contribution to the NRP by social partners'), which goes into great depth explaining the role of LRAs and social partners in the implementation of the NRP. One example is given within the document stating LRA involvement in long-term care reform.	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>Europe 2020</p> <p>Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?</p>	<p>Chapter 4 of the NRP, ‘Status of Europe 2020 Strategy’, discusses the progress that the Netherlands has made in achieving Europe 2020 goals, how they have done so, and how they will continue to improve. Within this chapter LRA involvement in this process is mentioned several times in the context of the majority of Europe 2020 target areas: research and innovation, climate and energy, education and poverty and social inclusion.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway</p> <p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</p>	<p>Although the administrative capacity of LRAs is not cited extensively, the document is accompanied by an annex on the ‘Contribution to the NRP by social partners’ where the social partners have explained their contribution to the Europe 2020 objectives.</p>	<p>1</p>
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p> <p>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?</p>	<p>The NRP cites some areas that involved the cooperation between the government, LRAs and social partners. One area concerns cooperation in order to strengthen economic growth. The other area concerns a cooperative dialogue to discuss the future of the Dutch pension system.</p>	<p>2</p>

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
Cooperation models Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?	See above.	2
Wider partnership (multi-actorship) Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process	Wider partnership is evident throughout the NRP in many policy areas, such as wage-setting, the labour market and climate and energy. The specificity of the partners varies from vague (social partners, social organisations, stakeholders, parties) to explicit (the Association of Dutch Universities, Dutch Organisation for Scientific Research).	2
Institutional capacity-building Clear point on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?	The NRP does not emphasise institutional capacity-building. ⁹	0

⁹ Comment by the Ministry of Economic Affairs: The involvement of partnership and MLG is not always extensively described in the NRP as it concentrates on describing the progress in the follow up of the CSR and the progress in realizing the EU 2020 targets. Although the NRP does not mention institutional capacity-building, we would like to note that the overall quality of the institutional capacity is excellent. Employees are encouraged to continuously improve their skills, capabilities and knowledge, to maintain and further improve the quality.

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<i>Territorial dimension¹⁰</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Challenges and needs Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?	The NRP does not cite specific challenges or needs referring to certain types of LRAs or territories.	0
Impact / Coverage Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?	The NRP mentions several areas where there are regional differences in policy impact and implementation. This is mentioned in the context of the housing market and renewable energy projects.	2
Specific policies Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?	There are policies cited in the NRP that target specific types of regions in the Netherlands. One is a sectoral plan with activities aimed at promising occupation in sectors or regions where jobs are created or vacancies are hard to fill. The other is a programme for wind power to be implemented in eleven of the twelve provinces.	2

¹⁰ Comment by the Ministry of Economic Affairs: We do not specifically address the territorial dimension. In general our policies are national and don't differ between provinces.

5.22 Country Fiche – Poland (PL)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring						
Introductory information								
Regions and their role	<p>The administrative division of Poland since 1999 has been based on three levels of subdivision. The territory of Poland is divided into voivodeships (provinces); these are further divided into powiats (counties), and these in turn are divided into gminas (communes or municipalities). Major cities normally have the status of both gmina and powiat. Poland currently has 16 voivodeships, 380 powiats (including 66 cities with powiat status), and 2,478 gminas.</p> <p>The current system was introduced pursuant to a series of acts passed by the Polish parliament in 1998, and came into effect on 1 January 1999.</p> <p>With regards to the regional administrative set up, Poland follows a unitary, integrated system with a dominant role of Cohesion Policy.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Poland, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>						
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average :</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="562 997 1209 1141"> <tr> <td>National average</td> <td>65,64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital region: Mazowieckie</td> <td>106,62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lowest: Podkarpackie and Lubelskie</td> <td>60,44</td> </tr> </table>	National average	65,64	Capital region: Mazowieckie	106,62	Lowest: Podkarpackie and Lubelskie	60,44	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
National average	65,64							
Capital region: Mazowieckie	106,62							
Lowest: Podkarpackie and Lubelskie	60,44							
Involvement of LRAs in the NRP								
<p>Preparation</p> <p>Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the</p>	<p>The Inter-Ministerial Team for the Europe 2020 Strategy (hereinafter the Team), which is an advisory and consulting body of the Prime Minister, was involved in works on the <i>NRP 2015/2016</i>. The Team comprises socio-economic partners, in addition to representatives of the government administration, which is meant to contribute towards the promotion of the</p>	2						

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?</p>	<p>Europe 2020 strategy as well as to strengthen the cooperation between various stakeholders and the ownership of its implementation at the national and local level.</p> <p>The list of the actors involved comprises following groups: local and regional authorities, business associations, trade unions, agricultural and commerce chambers, NGOs and scientific and research units.</p>	
<p>Implementation</p> <p>Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	<p>LRAs are mentioned throughout the NRP. The following examples have been selected because of their explicit reference to local and regional authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Providing universal preschool education (the Ministry of National Education): the measure– as an own task of local government units – will be financed from local government budgets and supported by way of a specific purpose subsidy from the state budget. Financial support of local government units in the implementation of the tasks of preschool education will continue in the upcoming years. ▪ Support for investments in renewable energy sources (Ministry of Economy):Local and regional authorities, among other actors, can be beneficiaries of the Prosument programme which provides support for the projects involving the purchase and installation of new and micro-installations of renewable energy sources for single-family or multi-family residential buildings (...) The beneficiaries of the programme can also be natural persons, housing cooperatives and housing communities. Under the Prosument programme the support will be provided as a grant of 20% or 40% (after 2015- 15% or 30%) and a preferential loan- together up to 100% of eligible costs of the installation. ▪ Counteracting poverty objective: the "Senior – WIGOR" Multi-Annual Programme for 2015-2020 adopted on 17 March 2015, will support local government authorities in establishing and maintaining "Senior – WIGOR" Daily Care Facilities, in particular these local government units that are characterised by low income, high 	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
	percentage of seniors in general population or lack of social assistance infrastructure used to provide care and specialist care services for the elderly outside their place of residence.	
Europe 2020 Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?	LRAs are always implicitly mentioned across the NRP. In this particular section, the most explicit mention is in the area of “Improvement of waste management”.	2
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?	The improvement of administrative capacity is mentioned only generally. The improvement of capacity is referred to in specific policy sectors (e.g. improving administrative capacity in the medical sector).	1
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
Coordination among the tiers of administration Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?	There are concrete examples of coordination among the tiers of administration for specific policy sectors, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support for investments in renewable energy sources (Ministry of Economy): The adoption of the Act on renewable energy sources will result in the implementation of objectives in the scope of development of renewable energy sources and further coordination of actions of government administration authorities in this area. 	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of the social economy sector (Ministry of Labour and Social Policy): establishment of the National Committee for the Development of Social Economy which will comprise representatives of the government, local government authorities and social economy sector. The Committee will be an advisory body to the Minister of Labour and Social Policy, who apart from serving coordinating functions will also present recommendations as regards decisions of strategic nature for the social economy sector. 	
<p>Cooperation models</p> <p>Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</p>	<p>The Inter-Ministerial Team for the Europe 2020 Strategy (hereinafter the Team), which is an advisory and consulting body of the Prime Minister, was involved in works on the NRP 2015/2016. The Team comprises socio-economic partners, in addition to representatives of the government administration, which is meant to contribute towards the promotion of the Europe 2020 strategy as well as to strengthen the cooperation between various stakeholders and the ownership of its implementation at the national and local level.</p> <p>Also, Youth Guarantees will be implemented by inter-sectoral cooperation networks involving e.g. social partners, NGOs, entities functioning in the education system, government organisations, labour market institutions.</p>	2
<p>Wider partnership (multi-actorship)</p> <p>Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process</p>	<p>Wider partnership is described in the context of the preparation of the NRP as mentioned above, as well as in the context of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Youth Guarantees” implementation in Poland (Ministry of Labour and Social Policy): the planned measures will be implemented through inter-sectoral cooperation networks involving e.g. social partners, NGOs, entities functioning in the education system, government organisations, labour market institutions. ▪ Support for the cooperation of schools with employers (Ministry of National Education/ Ministry of Economy/ Polish Agency for Enterprise Development): the successful implementation of changes in vocational education requires teams of 	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
	social partners representative for vocational education professions, which will identify the qualification and profession-related needs of the labour market in specific industries/professions of vocational education and develop career development paths in a given industry/profession in cooperation with sector councils	
Institutional capacity-building <i>Clear point on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?</i>	The improvement of institutional/administrative capacity is mentioned only generally. The improvement of capacity is referred to in specific policy sectors (e.g. improving administrative capacity in the medical sector).	1
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Challenges and needs <i>Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?</i>	The NRP describes the challenges and needs in general and in different policy sectors. It refers to Voivodeship as territorial administrative units, but it does not differentiate in detail between types of territories or specific geographic areas either.	0
Impact / Coverage <i>Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?</i>	The NRP describes the impact of the policies and measures planned on the country without distinguishing between types of territories.	0
Specific policies <i>Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?</i>	No specific policies, measures or programmes are defined targeting types of LRAs.	0

5.23 Country Fiche – Portugal (PT)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring						
<i>Introductory information</i>								
Regions and their role	<p>Administratively, Portugal is a unitary and decentralized State. Nonetheless, operationally, it is highly centralized system with administrative divisions organized into three tiers. The State is organized under the principles of subsidiarity, local government autonomy, and democratic decentralization of the public service.</p> <p>The current government structure is based on the 1976 Constitution, adopted after the 1975 Carnation Revolution. In addition to defining the status of the autonomous regions (Portuguese: <i>regiões autónomas</i>) Azores and Madeira (Articles 225-234), the Constitution specifically identifies the three tiers of government +: civil parishes (<i>freguesias</i>), municipalities (<i>municípios</i>) and administrative regions (<i>regiões administrativas</i>). In law 75/2013 of September 2013 the two types of administrative regions were defined: metropolitan areas (<i>áreas metropolitanas</i>) and intermunicipal communities (<i>comunidades intermunicipais</i>). Also, the powers and duties of the civil parishes, municipalities, metropolitan areas and intermunicipal communities were specified.</p> <p>In addition, the Portuguese territory was redefined during European integration, under a system of statistical regions and NUTS subregions (no legal status).</p> <p>Portugal follows and integrated, closely interrelated system with regards to regional policy.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Portugal, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>						
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="562 1219 1220 1329"> <tr> <td>National average</td> <td>77,03</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital region/highest: Lisboa</td> <td>107,36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lowest: Norte</td> <td>62,26</td> </tr> </table>	National average	77,03	Capital region/highest: Lisboa	107,36	Lowest: Norte	62,26	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
National average	77,03							
Capital region/highest: Lisboa	107,36							
Lowest: Norte	62,26							

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<i>Involvement of LRAs in the NRP</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Preparation Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?	In the initial phase of the NRP, autonomous regions, metropolitan areas of Lisbon and Porto, and municipalities were consulted via The National Association (there were only two Inter-Municipal Communities present).	2
Implementation Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	The role of the LRAs in the implementation of the NRP is restricted. There are two examples und chapter 5: EISF Section that demonstrate LRA participation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparation of the Partnership Agreement (Portugal 2010) and development of the Operational Programmes 2014-2020 involved namely the National Association of Portuguese Municipalities. ▪ Structure of "Portugal 2020", which includes four thematic Operational Programmes, four regional OPs (for the 5 regions of mainland Portugal), 2 OPs for autonomous regions (Azores and Madeira)... 3 rural development programmes (1 for mainland Portugal and 2 for the autonomous regions)". 	2
Europe 2020 Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?	The NRP does not explicit describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020, only generally related to the EISF Section.	1
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020	The NRP mentions the administrative capacities of LRAs in the context of various reforms and programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ public administration reforms, legal system and policies evaluation (rationalisation 	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>pathway</p> <p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</p>	<p>and modernisation of central, regional and local public administration);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aproximar Programme: new model of organisation of public services reproaching public administration, enterprises and citizens in the territory. Integration of various public Services Information desk will be at the municipal level. This programme will involve all sectoral Ministries and local partners, namely Local Administration. ▪ Ambitious and consistent Programme of Competencies Decentralisation for the construction of a sustainable and proximity public administration, implying the increase of efficiency and efficacy resources management by municipalities or inter-municipal bodies. The promotion of territorial cohesion, innovative and excellence projects enhancing services to be provided locally. ▪ Decentralisation Policy for Social Areas, through the progressive implementation of pilot-projects and contracts signed with municipalities. ▪ Reform for sharing and integrating municipal services 	
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p> <p>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?</p>	<p>The NRP does cite general framework agreements or treaties which tie the government levels together. See previous point (e.g.: "Aproximar" Programme and "Programme for Decentralisation of Social Functions".</p> <p>Tax Equalisation is not referred to. Committees are not specifically referred to.</p> <p>Some reference is made to inter-municipal communities providing information , regarding the building of a national systems anticipating qualification needs and vocational and professional training targeted to young graduated people (articulation between Employers, Schools and Municipalities) See also in the annexes: "Partnership Networks for Young Unemployed People"; "Professional Stages in Public Administration: Central and Local" and "Local Networks for Social Integration".</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
Cooperation models <i>Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</i>	Cooperation models exist in the preparation of the Partnership Agreement (Portugal 2010) and of the Operational Programmes 2014-2020 and in the involvement of the National Association of Municipalities in the preparation of the Strategic Framework "Portugal 2020" document, which includes four thematic domains and two transversal domains (Reform of Public Administration and Territorial interventions).	2
Wider partnership (multi-actorship) <i>Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process</i>	The involvement of stakeholders is mentioned in the context of the digital agenda and the national strategy for research and innovation.	2
Institutional capacity-building <i>Clear point on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?</i>	Institutional capacity-building is cited within the context of several reforms and policy areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ public administration reforms; ▪ legal system and policies evaluation; ▪ rationalisation, modernization of central, regional and local public administration; ▪ Global Strategic Plan for Rationalisation and Costs Reduction (PGETIC), based on ITC improvement; ▪ ambitious and consistent Programme of Competencies decentralisation for the construction of a sustainable and proximity public administration; ▪ Decentralisation Policy for Social Areas, through the progressive implementation of pilot-projects and contracts signed with municipalities; ▪ improvement of the quality of public decentralised services; ▪ reform for sharing and integrating municipal services. 	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
<p>Challenges and needs</p> <p>Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?</p>	<p>The NRP partially refers to challenges and needs concerning certain LRAs or territories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ municipalities, referred to for the EISF Section Preparation (Partnership Agreement). Extensive reference made to service decentralisation at municipal level and inter-municipal cooperation schemes, ▪ autonomous regions (Madeira and Azores), only referred to in relation with structure of "Portugal 2020" and Operational Programmes implementation. 	1
<p>Impact / Coverage</p> <p>Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?</p>	<p>Impact and coverage of envisaged policy measures on certain territories or LRAs is not referred to. Specific territorial coverage is only referred to through inter-municipal cooperation.</p>	0
<p>Specific policies</p> <p>Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?</p>	<p>Inter-Municipal Cooperation (NUTS III) level is the main target and instrument, although explanations in Portuguese NRP are generic.</p> <p>This approach is completed by territorial interventions provided by "Portugal 2020": four thematic operational Programmes, four regional OPs (for the 5 regions of mainland Portugal), 2 OPs for autonomous regions (Azores and Madeira)... 3 rural development programmes (1 for mainland Portugal and 2 for the autonomous regions)". Articulation with inter-municipal cooperation is not fully explained</p>	1

5.24 Country Fiche – Romania (RO)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring						
<i>Introductory information</i>								
Regions and their role	<p>Romania's administration is relatively centralised and administrative subdivisions are therefore fairly simplified.</p> <p>Romania's territory is organized administratively into communes, towns and counties¹¹:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At the county level: 41 counties, and one city with special status (Bucharest, the national capital). ▪ At the town/commune level: 103 municipalities and 217 other cities (for urban areas), and 2856 communes (for rural areas). ▪ Municipality (municipiu) status is accorded to larger towns, but it does not give their administrations any greater powers. <p>Below the communal or town level, there are no further formal administrative subdivisions. However, communes are divided into villages (which have no administration of their own).</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Romania, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>						
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="562 1034 1081 1182"> <tr> <td>National average</td> <td>48,50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital region/highest: Bucureşti - Ilfov</td> <td>122,31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lowest: Nord-Est</td> <td>28,68</td> </tr> </table>	National average	48,50	Capital region/highest: Bucureşti - Ilfov	122,31	Lowest: Nord-Est	28,68	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
National average	48,50							
Capital region/highest: Bucureşti - Ilfov	122,31							
Lowest: Nord-Est	28,68							

¹¹ Comment by the Ministry of Economics: Romania has no regional authorities. There are 8 development regions, without legal personality, coordinated by Councils consisting in representatives of the counties that are part of the region, generally named after their geographical position: North West, North East, South West, South East, South, West, Centre and Bucharest-Ilfov

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<i>Involvement of LRAs in the NRP</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Preparation Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?	The NRP cites the involvement of members from institutions within the Working Group for Europe 2020 Strategy, which provided contributions and consultation to the development of the NRP. Furthermore, the final version of the NRP was subjected to a public debate in order to increase the involvement of local authorities and stakeholders.	1
Implementation Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	The NRP rarely cites LRA involvement in the implementation process. For the most part, various ministries are cited as having the major role in NRP implementation. However LRA involvement is cited briefly in the context of combating corruption and also in the context of local development strategies for social inclusion.	2
Europe 2020 Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?	The NRP does contain a chapter dedicated to discussing the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy, chapter 4 'Progress in achieving Europe 2020 targets'. Although LRAs are not often cited within this section, they do seem to play a role, albeit a more restricted one, in the areas of climate and energy, the health system and employment.	2
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	The NRP is not very reflective on the issue of administrative capacities. It does cite LRA responsibility concerning tax auditing, flood protection and community-based social inclusion services and education.	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</p>		
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p> <p>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?</p>	<p>The NRP cites coordination among central and local actors concerning the development of different strategies for strengthening public administration. The NRP stipulates some measures designed to increase the efficiency of public administration (e.g. continuing the decentralization process; rendering operational, at the Centre of Government, a structure type Strategy Unit contributing to a better coordination of the implementing process of the strategies).</p>	2
<p>Cooperation models</p> <p>Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</p>	<p>The NRP mentions inter-territorial cooperation projects meant to reduce the social and economic disparities between urban and rural areas.</p>	2
<p>Wider partnership (multi-actorship)</p> <p>Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process</p>	<p>The NRP does reference the involvement of a wider partnership in the implementation process. Usually the partners are working in cooperation with the central government ministries. Partners cited in the NRP include social partners, NGOs and representatives from various sectors.</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
Institutional capacity-building Clear point on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?	The NRP does reference institutional capacity-building in regards to social infrastructure and decentralisation.	2
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Challenges and needs Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?	Within the NRP there are several references related to the territorial challenges/needs, e.g. providing electronic communications services in deprived rural areas (with a direct contribution to reducing the digital divide in rural areas and increased access level to e-government services in rural areas) or improving the housing conditions.	2
Impact / Coverage Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?	The NRP makes no reflection on how certain policies might have differing impacts on different territories. However, the Annex No 2 of the NRP includes a column with the estimated effects (qualitative and/or quantitative) of the main commitments on short and medium term both at national and/or local level (e.g. social inclusion or education).	2
Specific policies Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?	The NRP lists several policies aimed at specific types of regions in Romania. Mostly these policies are targeted towards rural, isolated and agricultural communities in order to decrease the economic and social disparities between these regions and urban communities. These policies are in the areas of health care, employment, education and infrastructure.	2

5.25 Country Fiche – Slovenia (SI)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring						
<i>Introductory information</i>								
Regions and their role	<p>Officially, Slovenia is subdivided into 211 (eleven of which have the status of urban municipalities). The municipalities are the only bodies of local autonomy in Slovenia. Each municipality is headed by a mayor (župan), elected every four years by popular vote, and a municipal council (občinski svet). In the majority of municipalities, the municipal council is elected through the system of proportional representation; only a few smaller municipalities use the plurality voting system. In the urban municipalities, the municipal councils are called town (or city) councils. Every municipality also has a Head of the Municipal Administration (načelnik občinske uprave), appointed by the mayor, who is responsible for the functioning of the local administration.</p> <p>There is no official intermediate unit between the municipalities and the Republic of Slovenia. The 62 administrative districts, officially called "Administrative Units" (upravne enote), are only territorial sub-units of government administration and are named after their capital. They are headed by a Head of the Unit (načelnik upravne enote), appointed by the Minister of Public Administration.</p> <p>With regards to regional policy, Slovenia follows an integrated system where Cohesion Policy played a significant role in establishing the overall implementation system for regional development.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Slovenia, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>						
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average:</p> <table data-bbox="566 1222 1108 1366"> <tr> <td>National average</td> <td>84,48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital region/highest: Zahodna Slovenija</td> <td>100,05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>lowest: Vzhodna Slovenija</td> <td>70,57</td> </tr> </table>	National average	84,48	Capital region/highest: Zahodna Slovenija	100,05	lowest: Vzhodna Slovenija	70,57	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
National average	84,48							
Capital region/highest: Zahodna Slovenija	100,05							
lowest: Vzhodna Slovenija	70,57							

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<i>Involvement of LRAs in the NRP</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Preparation Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?	The preparation process and eventual role of LRA are not mentioned in the NRP.	0
Implementation Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	The role of LRA in the implementation process is not mentioned in the NRP.	0
Europe 2020 Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?	LRAs are explicitly mentioned only in the last section of the relevant chapter, “national targets for combating poverty and social inclusion”: community-led local development should contribute to reducing poverty and the risk of marginalisation. A broad bundle of measures is being touched on such as employment initiatives and basic social and health care.	2
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway	The issue of administrative capacities of LRAs is not mentioned.	0

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</p>		
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p> <p>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?</p>	<p>The reform of the property tax covering municipal budgets is mentioned when presenting measures concerning the state budget following recommendations of the EU Council – the measure is embedded in a broader policy discussion in order to strengthen the financial capacities of local governments.</p>	1
<p>Cooperation models</p> <p>Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</p>	<p>No specific cooperation models like Territorial Pacts concerning key policy areas are mentioned.</p> <p>The section on local community development hints at improved cooperation between municipalities, social service centres and the Labour Offices but a more concrete reference to cooperation approaches is missing.</p>	1
<p>Wider partnership (multi-actorship)</p> <p>Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process</p>	<p>There exists a Social Agreement between the government and social partners for the period 2015/2016 determining key work areas and implementation measures. Social partners and the Social Agreement are also mentioned in the context of measures concerning labour costs, especially in the public sector, and health care cost when commenting on recommendations of the EU Council.</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>Institutional capacity-building</p> <p>Clear point on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?</p>	<p>Training of public administration staff and transparency is mentioned in the context of fighting corruption, following a recommendation of the EU Council.</p>	<p>2</p>
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
<p>Challenges and needs</p> <p>Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?</p>	<p>Specific territorial challenges or needs of LRAs are not mentioned.</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>Impact / Coverage</p> <p>Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?</p>	<p>The impact of policy measures on specific LRAs is not explicitly mentioned.</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>Specific policies</p> <p>Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?</p>	<p>The NRP does not address any specific policies or programmes for municipalities.</p> <p>The only more specific programme refers to a tentative list of projects that might be submitted in the framework of the Juncker Plan. However, projects explicitly at regional level are excluded.</p>	<p>0</p>

5.26 Country Fiche – Slovakia (SK)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring						
Introductory information								
Regions and their role	<p>Slovakia is divided into a number of kraje ("Regions"). Their number, borders and functions have been changed several times. There are currently eight regions of Slovakia and they correspond to the EU's NUTS 3 level of local administrative units. Each kraj consists of okresy (counties). There are currently 79 Districts.</p> <p>With regards to regional policy, Slovakia follows an integrated system where Cohesion Policy played a significant role in establishing the overall implementation system for regional development.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Slovakia, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>						
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="566 959 1025 1142"> <tr> <td>National average</td> <td>75,40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital region/highest: Bratislavský kraj</td> <td>186,08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lowest: Východné Slovensko</td> <td>51,15</td> </tr> </table>	National average	75,40	Capital region/highest: Bratislavský kraj	186,08	Lowest: Východné Slovensko	51,15	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
National average	75,40							
Capital region/highest: Bratislavský kraj	186,08							
Lowest: Východné Slovensko	51,15							
Involvement of LRAs in the NRP								
<p>Preparation</p> <p>Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the</p>	<p>The NRP includes very little mention of the representation of LRAs in the preparation of the NRP. The NRP briefly states consulting partners in the preparation process.</p>	1						

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?		
Implementation Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	The role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP is stated in the context of various policy areas. The NRP cites local government involvement in financing certain policies, particularly in education and infrastructure. It also cites LRA involvement in CSR implementation in the context of education, public administration reform and social inclusion.	2
Europe 2020 Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?	EU Cohesion Policy is labelled as one of the key instruments to achieve the EU 2020 targets. A separate Annex describes the achievements towards EU 2020 albeit mostly in figures. The Annex does not specify the role of LRAs in the implementation of EU 2020	0
Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?	Modernising public administration and Civil Sector Reform is one of the key objectives in the NRP. It is intended to develop a unified Strategy Human Resource Management; it is intended to improve the expert capacities in public administration. The section on EU cohesion policy stresses lack of administrative capacity as main challenge for the weak performance in the absorption of EU funds (public procurement ranking on top of key challenges). One of the intended objectives is to lower the fluctuation of staff in the administration (e.g. through de-politicisation and stabilisation of organisational structures and more efficient independent control bodies).	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p> <p>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?</p>	<p>The NRP gives little mention to coordination among the tiers of administration. It does mention strengthening coordination between multiple levels of governments concerning civil service reform.</p> <p>The only section which partly refers to regional competences is the section on the regional education system – however the section does not explain coordination mechanisms in detail.</p>	1
<p>Cooperation models</p> <p>Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</p>	<p>The NRP does not provide any exemplary measures regarding cooperation between the different tiers of administration.</p>	0
<p>Wider partnership (multi-actorship)</p> <p>Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process</p>	<p>There is little reference to the involvement of a wider partnership with a clear-cut function in the NRP process. However, the NRP does mention non-public providers of employment services in regards to the issue on long-term unemployment. It also mentions social partners regarding the promotion of eGovernance.</p>	2
<p>Institutional capacity-building</p> <p>Clear point on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?</p>	<p>Institutional capacity-building is referenced in the NRP. The NRP mentions the necessity to improve regional public administration offices, finance public investments at the local government level and improve the services of LRAs in the context of employment and childcare.</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Challenges and needs <i>Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?</i>	The challenge given the most attention by the NRP is corruption. It states the need to address corruption in all levels of government including the local governments.	2
Impact / Coverage <i>Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?</i>	The NRP makes no reflection on how certain policies might have differing impacts on different territories.	0
Specific policies <i>Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?</i>	The NRP does mention policies specific to certain regions, especially regions with a Roma population. Throughout the NRP several programmes are mentioned with a goal to promote better inclusiveness of the Roma population. The NRP also includes a programme to improve infrastructure in Eastern, Southern and Central Slovakia. It also mentions a programme directed at the Bratislava Region to improve energy efficiency.	2

5.27 Country Fiche – Sweden (SE)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring						
<i>Introductory information</i>								
Regions and their role	<p>The counties of Sweden (Swedish: län) are the top-level geographic subdivisions of Sweden. Sweden is today divided into 21 counties; however, the numbers of counties has varied over time, due to territorial gains/losses and to divisions and/or mergers of existing counties.</p> <p>In every county except Gotland there is a county administrative board (länsstyrelse) headed by a governor (landshövding), appointed by the government, as well as a separate county council (landstingfullmäktige).</p> <p>The aims of the county administrative board is to supervise the local state administration that is not otherwise assigned to other government agencies, and to coordinate the political goals with the central government. The county council is the elected regional political assembly for the municipal affairs of the county, primarily regarding public healthcare, public transport and culture.</p> <p>A number of several other government agencies are organised on a county basis (main bodies of the police, employment, social insurance, and forestry services).</p> <p>With regards to regional policy, Sweden follows a detached system, where the management structures are specifically dedicated to the delivery of ERDF through specific channels and structures.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for Sweden, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>						
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="566 1222 1032 1398"> <tr> <td>National average</td> <td>125,31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital region/highest: Stockholm</td> <td>172,74</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lowest: Östra Mellansverige</td> <td>107,89</td> </tr> </table>	National average	125,31	Capital region/highest: Stockholm	172,74	Lowest: Östra Mellansverige	107,89	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
National average	125,31							
Capital region/highest: Stockholm	172,74							
Lowest: Östra Mellansverige	107,89							

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<i>Involvement of LRAs in the NRP</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Preparation Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?	The point of view of the Swedish LRAs is represented by a contribution from the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR) included in the annex to the NRP. A joint conference of the Swedish Government, SALAR and the EC was held in January 2015 on the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy in Sweden.	2
Implementation Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	The role of LRAs (municipalities, counties) in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR is dealt with in detail for two CSRs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ efficiency in the housing market (especially the streamlining of administrative processes in the municipalities concerning planning and construction) and ▪ measures to improve basic skills and increase labour market participation of youth and other vulnerable groups (with the Government initiating dialogue and cooperation with municipalities and counties concerning measures against youth unemployment resp. Government compensation for the role of LRA in this respect as well as Government support of the municipalities for refugee care). 	2
Europe 2020 Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?	The role of LRAs (municipalities, counties) in the implementation Europe 2020 is explicitly mentioned for two targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ increased social inclusion (the Government advising municipalities in combating homelessness, support for vulnerable EEA citizens staying temporarily in Sweden, economic vulnerability among children with advice) and ▪ climate and energy targets (various initiatives in the energy and transport sector including LRAs promoting investment that can increase production of renewable energy such as biogas, central government support to municipal energy and climate advice services; partly ERDF co-financed). 	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway</p> <p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</p>	<p>At some points in the document, mainly concerning CSRs on housing market and labour market as well as the Europe 2020 target on social inclusion, advice by state bodies and county administrations to municipalities is mentioned, hinting implicitly (in the case of housing, explicitly) at administrative capacity restrictions at the municipal level.</p>	2
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p> <p>Does the NRP include a clear reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?</p>	<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration is mentioned at various occasions in the document, e.g. for the CSR concerning measures to improve basic skills and increase labour market participation of youth and other vulnerable groups and for the Europe 2020 target on social inclusion via national coordinators and support of counties for municipalities (for references see “Europe 2020” dimension).</p> <p>An important point is the national plan for measures in transport infrastructure proposed by the Swedish Transport Administration together with the planning bodies at county level to the Government.</p> <p>Market surveillance is partly carried out in cooperation of state authorities and municipalities. The Swedish Government sees the new national strategy for sustainable growth and attractiveness 2015-2020 as a main tool for inclusion of regional actors in the Europe 2020 strategy.</p>	2
<p>Cooperation models</p> <p>Reference to specific models of</p>	<p>The Government has set up a national forum for regional growth and attractiveness 2015-2020 to foster the dialogue between national, regional and local levels with view to the shared responsibility for regional growth. Important topics are:</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<p>cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ innovation (also in the public sector), ▪ digitalisation, ▪ infrastructure, ▪ dialogue on Sweden's partnership agreement with the Commission, ▪ cohesion policy. ▪ 	
<p>Wider partnership (multi-actorship)</p> <p>Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process</p>	<p>Social partners and a broad range of organisations in civil society (representing cooperative companies, non-profit health and social service providers, voluntary organisations, homosexuals and transgender, women, workers and research as well as the Swedish National Council of Adult Education and the Church of Sweden) were involved in the drafting of the NRP. Their contributions are included in the annex to the NRP.</p> <p>The Government has established a reference group with representatives from the ministries concerned in the Government Offices of Sweden and the social partners (the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise, the Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO), the Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees (TCO), the Swedish Confederation of Professional Associations (Saco), the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR), the Swedish Agency for Government Employers and the Swedish Federation of Business Owners) concerning the European semester and the national decision-making process. The reference group holds regular meetings discussing and consulting on the implementation of the strategy in Sweden. Other examples for the inclusion of social partners or CSOs comprise vocational colleges or the labour market introduction of new arrivals.</p>	2
<p>Institutional capacity-building</p> <p>Clear point on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?</p>	<p>The issue of institutional capacity-building is raised at some points when support or advice at the state level to LRAs respectively from the county level to the municipal level is mentioned.</p>	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Challenges and needs <i>Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?</i>	The NRP mentions in its main text body education and transport projects in Stockholm and Gothenburg. The contribution of SALAR in Annex 1 provides a list of examples of local and regional projects.	2
Impact / Coverage <i>Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?</i>	Several references are made in the text on the impact of policy measures at a regional level, explicitly in the context of the CSR concerning housing where administrative structures at municipal level are restructured; also concerning social issues like youth unemployment or refugee care where the municipalities are directly affected.	2
Specific policies <i>Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?</i>	Concerning implementation of cohesion policy 2014-2020, Sweden will implement eight regional and one national regional fund programme (SEK 15 939 million) and participates in a total of thirteen different cooperation programmes; seven of which are approved by now (North, Botnia-Atlantica, Sweden-Norway, Central Baltic, Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak, Northern Periphery and the Arctic and the Baltic Sea Region programme) affecting all counties in Sweden. Rural peripheral regions are implicitly mentioned as targets for Government investment in broadband infrastructure expansion in the framework of rural and regional development funds in areas where the market does not regard it as profitable to expand. Other examples are urban environment agreements focusing on sustainable transport in urban areas.	2

5.28 Country Fiche – United Kingdom (UK)

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring						
<i>Introductory information</i>								
Regions and their role	<p>The administrative geography of the United Kingdom is complex, multi-layered and non-uniform. The United Kingdom, a sovereign state, consists of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Local governments in the United Kingdom, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales each have their own system of administrative and geographic demarcation, and uniquely in Europe, three separate legal jurisdictions: England & Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Consequently, there is "no common stratum of administrative unit encompassing the United Kingdom", nor a UK-wide local government jurisdiction.</p> <p>Because there is no written document that comprehensively encompasses the British constitution, and owing to a convoluted history of the formation of the United Kingdom, a variety of terms is used to refer to its constituent parts, which are sometimes called the four countries of the United Kingdom. The four are sometimes collectively referred to as the Home Nations, particularly in sporting contexts. Although the four countries are important for legal and governmental purposes, they are not comparable to administrative subdivisions of most other countries.</p> <p>With regards to regional policy-making, Structural Funds ran through a system of separate decision-making for Structural Funds and national funding that is entirely devolved to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (with UK Government in charge of England) but operating in a coordinated manner via a strategic body made up of civil servants of the four administrations. Conversely the UK PA is uniquely structured around 4 National Chapters.</p>	<p>National Reform Programme for the UK, 2015</p> <p>Radzyner, A. & al. (2014), Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period. Final Report. European Union, 2014.</p>						
Regional disparities in the MS	<p>Gradient in GDP in PPS 2011 in NUTS-II Regions in % of the EU-28 average :</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="562 1257 1317 1361"> <tr> <td>National average</td> <td>105,29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital region/highest: Inner London</td> <td>320,79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lowest: West Wales and The Valleys</td> <td>64,18</td> </tr> </table>	National average	105,29	Capital region/highest: Inner London	320,79	Lowest: West Wales and The Valleys	64,18	Eurostat, data for Regional Statistical Yearbook 2014
National average	105,29							
Capital region/highest: Inner London	320,79							
Lowest: West Wales and The Valleys	64,18							

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<i>Involvement of LRAs in the NRP</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Preparation Representation of local and regional actors in the preparation process - does the NRP include a clear and explicit reference to the contribution in the process?	There is a sub-section on the involvement of relevant stakeholders in the introduction of the NRP mentioning the involvement of LRA via contributions of the devolved administrations.	2
Implementation Is the role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the NRP and the CSR clearly stated; i.e. does the NRP/the CSR include concise references to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ specific policy fields ▪ financing ▪ other policy levers 	In some policy areas for which the future plans and reforms are described, the NRP mentions the role of LRAs (mainly the case for policies related to youth, employment and business/start-up research): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Under the new Initiative ‘Jobcentre Plus’: partnership with some 30 local authorities plus other agencies, to re-engage up to 3,000 16 and 17 year olds with education, employment with training or training. ▪ Youth Engagement Fund: set up in April 2014 to tackle the attainment gap and reduce the number of young people who become NEET. The YEF has £16 million in cross-government funding, and aims to secure further contributions from schools and local authorities. ▪ N-Ireland: cross-departmental strategy for those young people in the Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) category, ‘Pathways to Success’12 in May 2012. The strategy brings together key decision makers from government departments, voluntary and community, education, health, social care and business sectors and local government. ▪ In September 2012, Scottish ministers launched Working for Growth – a refreshed employability strategy for Scotland; the action is being monitored by the Scottish Employability Forum, jointly chaired at a senior political level by Scottish, UK and 	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
	<p>local government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Small business research initiative, Wales <p>In each section, there is always a sub-section named “devolved administrations” where specific actions carried out within that region are described (Wales, England, Scotland, Northern-Ireland).</p>	
<p>Europe 2020</p> <p>Does the NRP describe the role of LRAs in the pathway for implementation of Europe 2020?</p>	<p>There is no separate section on the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy in the NRP. Therefore, the answer to this question is the same as above.</p>	2
<p>Administrative capacity of LRAs related to the implementation of the NRP and the EU 2020 pathway</p> <p>In case there is a clear-cut role of the local and regional level stated – does the NRP or any secondary document refer to the capacities of LRAs?</p>	<p>Administrative capacity is almost not addressed. It is only mentioned in the following case:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In line with commitments under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), Northern Ireland is seeking to embed engagement with children and young people as a critical part of policy development across the Executive. A project is being taken forward to support departments in building up the capacity of their staff to carry out face to face engagement with children and young people. 	1
Partnership and MLG		Overall score
<p>Coordination among the tiers of administration</p> <p>Does the NRP include a clear</p>	<p>In each section, there is always a sub-section describing the government objective and policies, and a sub-section named “devolved administrations” where specific actions carried out within that region are described (Wales, England, Scotland, Northern-Ireland). The government section mentions how devolved the other administrations are, e.g. in the case of</p>	2

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
reference to coordination or cooperation frameworks between the national, regional and local level? In general – e.g. in which sectors?	Education, it is mentioned in the “government” section that education and skills are a devolved competence, with each of the administrations making their own policy decisions. Information on the approach taken by Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales is then included in the same chapter.	
Cooperation models Reference to specific models of cooperation such as Territorial Pacts or other forms of cooperation in the implementation of the NRP or Europe 2020?	For each relevant policy area, the share of competences between the government and the devolved administrations is described (see above).	1
Wider partnership (multi-actorship) Reference to the involvement of a wider partnership (social partners, CSOs etc.) with a clear-cut function in the implementation process	The focus of the 2015 NRP is on implementation and delivery of existing reform commitments. Given the key role that non-governmental organisations play in delivering structural reforms, their role is mentioned/ described in all relevant policy plans. The following are two examples of initiatives involving relevant stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The employer-led Movement to Work initiative (Box 3A, p.23) ▪ Jobs Growth Wales is a Welsh government initiative designed to tackle youth unemployment in Wales. Part (Box 3D, p.30). 	2
Institutional capacity-building Clear point on institutional capacity-building anchored in the NRP?	See above under “administrative capacity”.	1

Dimension	Evaluation / Assessment (along the evaluation questions - marked in red)	Source / Scoring
<i>Territorial dimension</i>		<i>Overall score</i>
Challenges and needs <i>Does the NRP reflect territorial challenges or needs referring to certain LRAs or types of LRAs or territories?</i>	The policies and measures are described in the context of each of the parts of the UK (England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern-Ireland), and the planned measures are always relevant to the situation within that area.	1
Impact / Coverage <i>Does the NRP reflect the impact of envisaged policy measures on certain territories respectively LRAs?</i>	There is no mention of the impact of specific measures on certain territories; rather the measures are described in the context of the situation faced within the part of the UK described (England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern-Ireland).	1
Specific policies <i>Does the NRP include specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs respectively territories?</i>	All the policies and measures planned are described by territorial unit (England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern-Ireland) but no specific areas within those units are mentioned. There is no mention of any specific measures or programmes targeting types of LRAs except at the level of the aforementioned territorial units.	1

6 References

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Radzyner, Alice. & al., Co-financing salaries, bonuses, top-ups from Structural Funds during the 2007-2013 period, Final Report, European Union, Vienna/Brussels 2014.

7 Annex

Table 4. Total scores of LRA involvement in the NRP preparation per country and dimension of the analysis

		AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	ES	FI	FR	EL	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SI	SK	SE	UK	
Involvement of LRAs in	Preparation	2	2	1	0	2	2	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	0	1	2	2	
	Implementation	2	2	1	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	
	Europe 2020	2	2	0	0	2	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	1	2	2	0	2	2	
	Administrative capacity of LRAs	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	2	1	0	2	2	1	
	Total Involvement per country	8	8	3	1	8	8	8	4	8	5	6	6	6	4	8	6	5	6	8	3	7	7	7	6	2	5	8	7	
Partnership and MLG	Coordination among the tiers of administration	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	0	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	
	Cooperation models	2	2	0	1	2	2	1	0	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	2	2	2	2	1	0	2	1	
	Wider partnership (multi-actorship)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
	Institutional capacity-building	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	1	1	0	1	2	1	2	1	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1
	Total Partnership per country	7	7	6	5	8	8	7	3	7	8	5	8	7	7	6	6	8	7	5	3	6	7	7	8	6	5	7	6	
Territorial dimension	Challenges and needs	2	1	0	0	2	2	0	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	2	0	2	2	1	
	Impact / Coverage	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	
	Specific policies	2	1	0	0	2	2	2	2	1	2	0	2	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	2	2	0	1	2	0	2	2	1	
	Total Territorial dimension per country	6	2	0	0	6	4	2	4	5	4	0	6	4	2	6	0	2	0	6	6	4	0	2	6	0	4	6	3	
Grand total per country		21	17	9	6	22	20	17	11	20	17	11	20	17	13	20	12	15	13	19	12	17	14	16	20	8	14	21	16	