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# EU Policy Development and Goals

Online lessons  
24.10.2024

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(TREND)

## Part I

# Understanding the Policy-Making Process and Case Study Analysis

How many of you think EU policies  
directly affect your everyday life?



# What is the European Green Deal?

December 2019  
#EUGreenDeal

The European Green Deal is about **improving the well-being of people**. Making Europe climate-neutral and protecting our natural habitat will be good for people, planet and economy. No one will be left behind.

### The EU will:



Become climate-neutral by 2050



Protect human life, animals and plants, by cutting pollution



Help companies become world leaders in clean products and technologies



Help ensure a just and inclusive transition

*"The European Green Deal is our new growth strategy. It will help us cut emissions while creating jobs."*

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission



*"We propose a green and inclusive transition to help improve people's well-being and secure a healthy planet for generations to come."*

Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission



**93%** of Europeans see climate change as a serious problem



**93%** of Europeans have taken at least one action to tackle climate change



**79%** agree that taking action on climate change will lead to innovation

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Think about the ambitious goal of making Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, known as the European Green Deal.

This initiative represents a bold policy commitment that affects millions of people, countless businesses, and has global environmental implications.

**But have you ever wondered how such a policy  
comes to life in the EU?**

**What steps are involved from an idea  
to a fully adopted and implemented law?**

# The Definition of Policy

*A policy is a deliberate plan of action or a set of principles adopted by an organisation, government, or individual to guide decision-making and achieve specific goals. Policies provide a framework for consistent actions and responses to particular issues or situations, helping to shape behaviors and outcomes.*

## Key Characteristics of Policy:

- **Guidance for Decision-Making:** Policies help guide the choices and actions of individuals or organizations by establishing clear rules or guidelines.
- **Consistency:** By setting out a structured approach, policies ensure that decisions are made consistently across different situations or cases.
- **Goal-Oriented:** Policies aim to achieve certain objectives, such as improving public health, enhancing economic growth, or protecting the environment.
- **Formal or Informal:** They can be formalised in written documents, like laws and regulations, or be more informal guidelines.

# The Importance of Policy Development

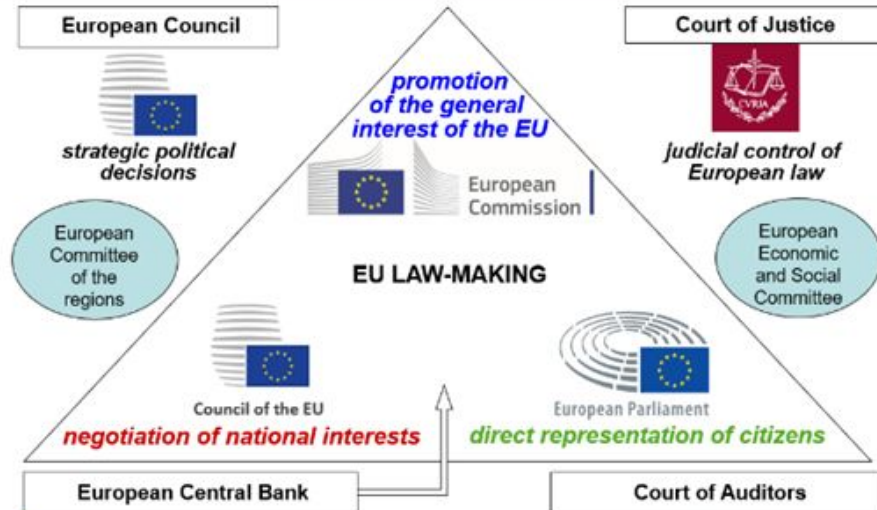
The EU is unique in that it brings together 27 member states with **diverse economies, cultures, and political landscapes.**

Policy development is not just about making laws; it's about **building consensus** across countries, **addressing cross-border (collective) challenges**, and setting a course for the future on issues like climate change, economic integration, and digital transformation.

Policy development is a process that aims to **harmonise laws** across member states while allowing for flexibility to suit different national contexts.

# The EU Policy Development Process

## A simple scheme of the EU institutional system



The policy process in the EU involves collaboration between key institutions:

- **European Commission:** Proposes legislation.
- **European Parliament:** Represents EU citizens and debates policies.
- **Council of the European Union:** Represents member state governments and negotiates policy positions.

# The EU Policy Development Process



Negotiation → Adoption

# Agenda-Setting



*\*Lobbyists and activists are responsible for taking the completed research to the EU Commission and their staff.*

**What it is:** Identifying priority issues that need EU-level action, often due to transnational challenges.

**Who is involved:** European Commission, stakeholders (citizens, NGOs, experts), lobbyists\* and member states

**Sources of initiatives:** EU treaties, international obligations (e.g., Paris Agreement), public opinion, or crises.

**Example:** After the COVID-19 pandemic, addressing health resilience and economic recovery became top priorities.

# Proposal Development



**Drafting proposals:** Led by the EU Commission, proposals are based on consultations with stakeholders and comprehensive impact assessments.

**Consultations:** Includes feedback from governments, businesses, NGOs, and the public. Ensures a wide range of views are considered. [HAVE YOUR SAY PORTAL](#)

**Impact Assessments:** Analyse potential effects on the economy, society, and environment to guide policy decisions.

**Example:** The Single Use Plastics Directive involved consulting industry experts and environmental groups.

# Negotiation and Adoption



*\*If they cannot agree, a conciliation committee is set up to try to find a solution. Both the Parliament and the Council can block the proposal during this final second reading stage.*

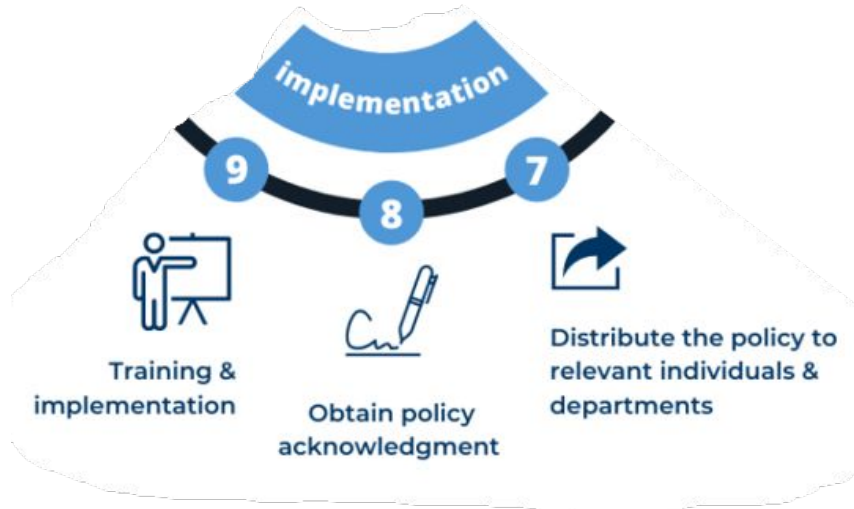
**Co-decision process (Ordinary Legislative Procedure):** The European Parliament and the Council must agree on the legislation.

- **Parliament:** May propose amendments and approve/reject the proposal.
- **Council:** Negotiates the text to reflect member state interests.

**Trilogue meetings:** Informal meetings between the Commission, Parliament, and Council to resolve differences\*.

**Example:** The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) went through multiple rounds of negotiation before adoption.

# Implementation



*Implementation can be a challenging stage, as it requires coordination and collaboration among various government agencies and other stakeholders.*

**Distribution:** Once approved the policy is put into action, and the necessary resources are allocated to carry out the proposed solutions. The policy is adopted by the **agency** empowered to carry out the legislation, along with the funding agency.

**Formal acknowledgment:** an agency will ensure that the policy has been reviewed and understood.

**Communication:** the agencies provide training or guidance to help member states, individuals, organisations understand how to apply the policy in practice.

# Evaluation & Maintenance



**Purpose:** Assess the effectiveness and impact of policies, determining if goals are met and identifying areas for improvement.

**Methods:** Use of data collection, feedback, and reports from stakeholders and experts.

**Outcome:** Results may lead to policy adjustments or entirely new legislative initiatives.

**Example:** The evaluation of the Common Agricultural Policy led to reforms to promote sustainability.

# Case Study Analysis - EU Climate Policy: The European Green Deal



**What is the European Green Deal?**

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 **93%** of Europeans see climate change as a serious problem

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 **79%** agree that taking action on climate change will lead to innovation

The European Green Deal, launched in 2019, aims to make the EU the first climate-neutral continent by 2050.

## Goals:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030.
- Promote the circular economy, biodiversity, and zero-pollution.
- Support a just transition for affected regions and industries.

**Context:** Part of a global response to the Paris Agreement\* and increasing environmental concerns.

*\* An international treaty adopted in 2015 aimed at combating climate change and limiting global warming.*

# Case Study Analysis - EU Green Deal Agenda-Setting and Proposal Development

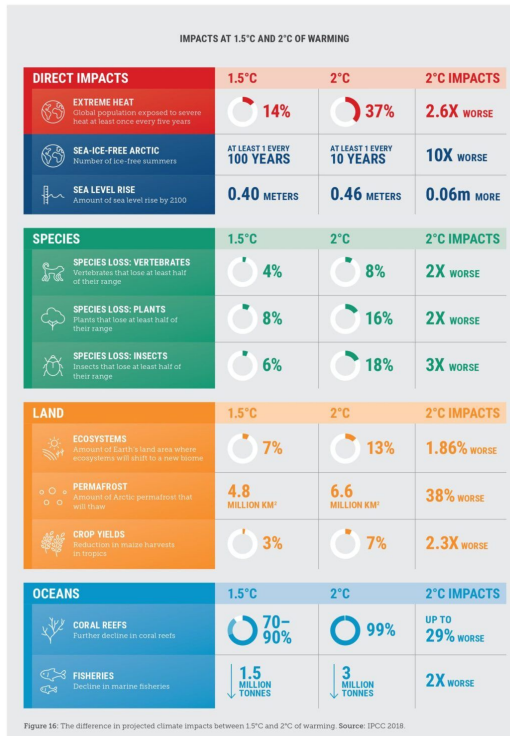


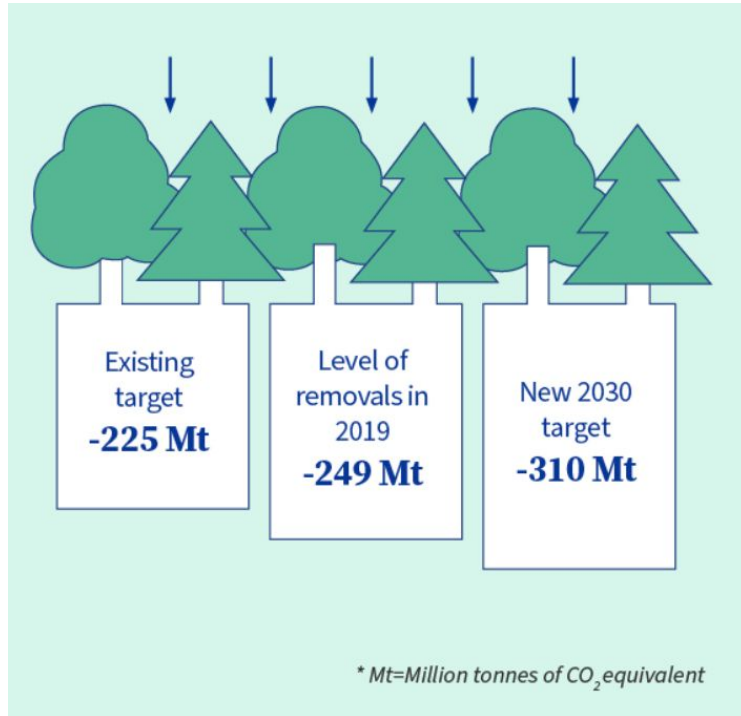
Figure 16: The difference in projected climate impacts between 1.5°C and 2°C of warming. Source: IPCC 2018.

**Agenda-setting:** Climate change rose to prominence due to scientific reports (Intergovernmental panel on climate change - IPCC), international agreements, and public pressure.

**Consultations:** Engaged stakeholders like environmental NGOs, industry representatives, and member states.

**Impact assessment:** Considered economic impact on industries like coal and regions dependent on fossil fuels.

# Case Study Analysis - EU Green Deal Negotiation and Adoption

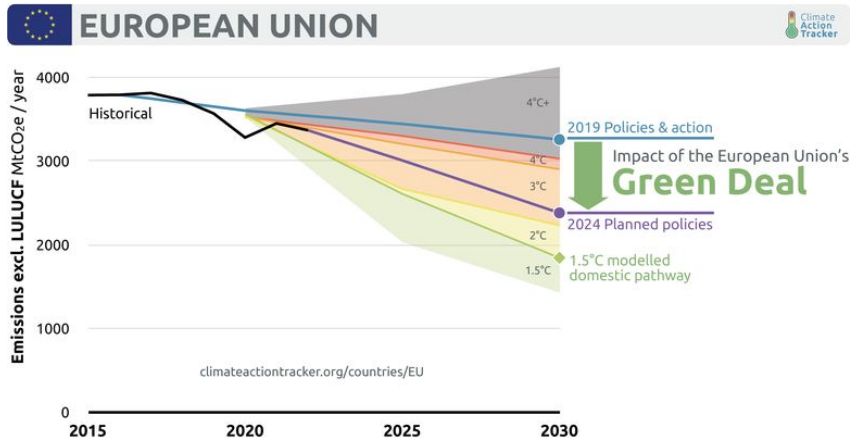


**Proposals:** The European Climate Law and the "Fit for 55" package as legislative steps.

**Parliament and Council negotiations:** Faced debates over emission targets, industry impacts, and financial support for a just transition.

**Compromises:** Higher targets were set for 2030 emissions, with funding for regions undergoing a green transition.

# Case Study Analysis - EU Green Deal Implementation



## National energy and climate plans (NECPs):

Member states submit plans detailing how they will achieve targets.

Funding mechanisms: EU budget, Just Transition Fund, and InvestEU programme support the transition.

Monitoring and enforcement: The European Environment Agency tracks emissions; member states must report progress.

Challenges: Variability in national energy infrastructures and economic conditions.

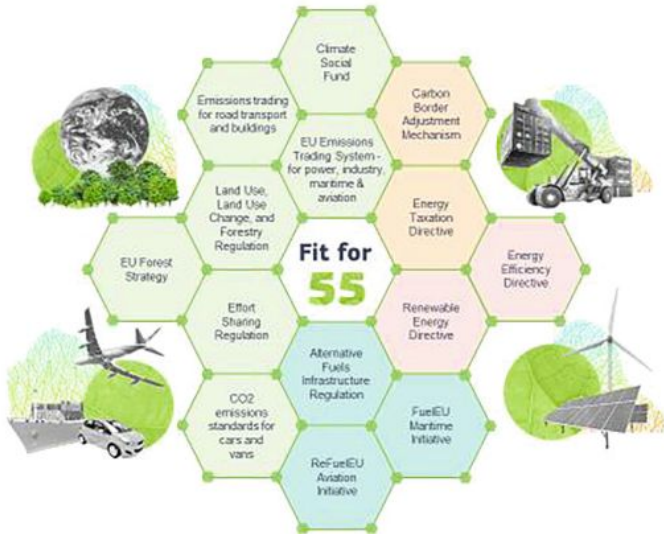
# Case Study Analysis - EU Green Deal Evaluation

**Periodic reviews:** The EU assesses progress towards 2030 and 2050 targets.

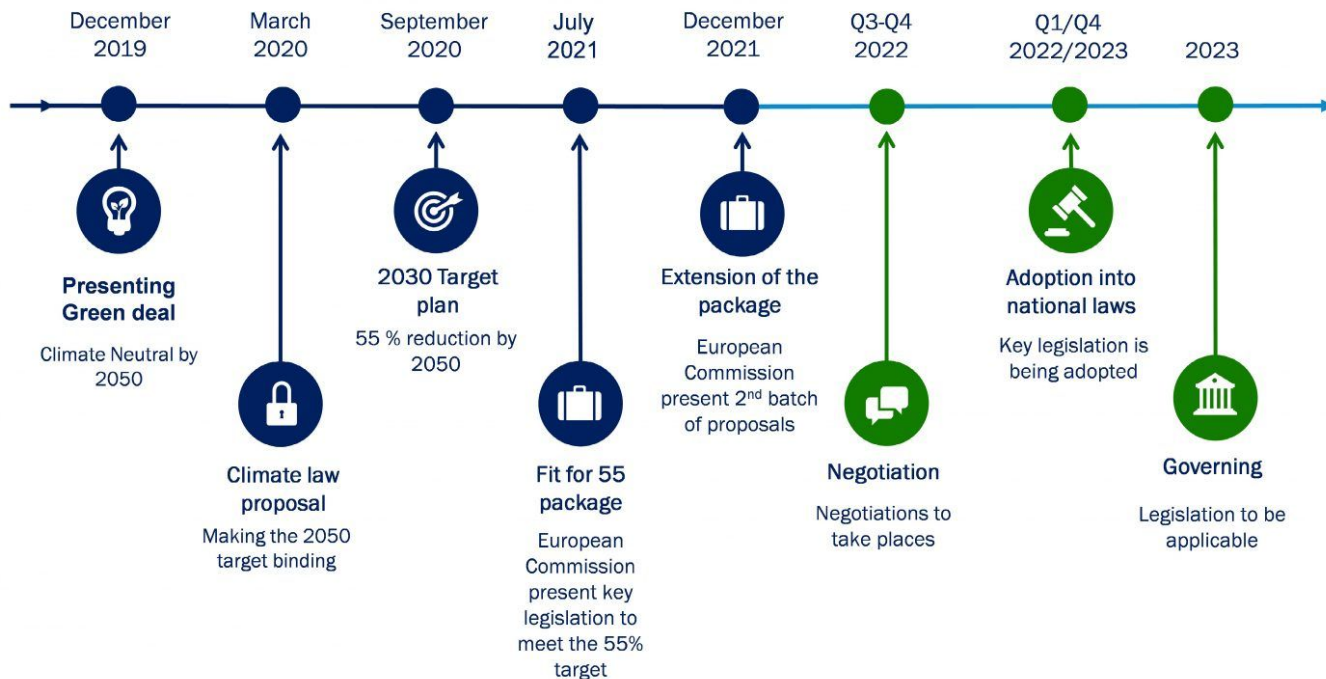
**Revisions:** New measures have been introduced based on technological advances or changing economic conditions (e.g., adjusting renewable energy targets).

**Feedback:** Continuous consultation with stakeholders to refine policies.

**Example:** Adaptations to address the energy crisis due to geopolitical factors.



# Case Study Analysis - EU Green Deal



# Case Study Analysis - EU Green Deal

## Lessons Learned and Challenges

### Lessons:

- Early stakeholder involvement leads to better policy outcomes.
- **Flexibility** in policy allows adaptation to new circumstances.

### Challenges:

- Balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability.
- Ensuring uniform implementation across diverse member states.
- Addressing resistance from affected industries and regions.

## Part II

# Connecting Policies to Strategic Goals

# Main Goals of the EU

The EU has several key **goals and objectives that guide its policies and initiatives.**

These goals are outlined in various treaties, notably the **Treaty on European Union (TEU)** and the **Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)**. Here's an overview of the main goals and how policies are connected to these goals:

## 1. Promoting Peace and Stability:

- **Goal:** To ensure peace and security in Europe.
- **Policies:** The EU engages in conflict prevention, peacekeeping, and crisis management through its Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP).

# Main Goals of the EU

## 2. Creating an Area of Freedom, Security, and Justice:

- **Goal:** To protect citizens' rights and freedoms while ensuring safety and security.
- **Policies:** This includes initiatives on border control (Schengen Area), asylum policies, and collaboration on crime prevention and law enforcement (e.g., Eurojust, Europol).

## 3. Establishing a Single Market:

- **Goal:** To promote economic integration by allowing free movement of goods, services, capital, and people.
- **Policies:** Policies focus on trade agreements, competition law, consumer protection, and regulations that remove barriers to trade.

# Main Goals of the EU

## 4. Enhancing Economic Cohesion and Convergence:

- **Goal:** To reduce disparities between regions and promote economic development.
- **Policies:** The EU employs regional funds (like the European Regional Development Fund) and economic strategies aimed at less developed regions.

## 5. Promoting Sustainable Development:

- **Goal:** To foster a sustainable and inclusive economy that protects the environment.
- **Policies:** This includes the Green Deal, climate action initiatives, and regulations on emissions and biodiversity protection.

# Main Goals of the EU

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- **Policies:** This includes the Green Deal, climate action initiatives, and regulations on emissions and biodiversity protection.

# Main Goals of the EU

## 6. Ensuring Social Inclusion and Solidarity:

- **Goal:** To enhance social welfare and ensure equitable opportunities for all citizens.
- **Policies:** Social policies include employment initiatives, anti-discrimination laws, and health and education programs.

## 7. Strengthening the EU's Global Role:

- **Goal:** To enhance the EU's influence in global affairs.
- **Policies:** This is pursued through international trade agreements, development aid, and diplomatic initiatives.

# A Structured Approach Connecting Policies to Goals

## Legislative Framework:

The EU enacts laws and directives that align with its goals. For instance, environmental policies are shaped by the goal of promoting sustainable development, with specific legislation like the European Climate Law.

## Funding Programmes:

EU funding mechanisms (like the European Social Fund or the Horizon Europe program) support projects that align with its goals, such as research and innovation for economic growth or initiatives aimed at reducing social inequalities.

# A Structured Approach Connecting Policies to Goals

## Inter-institutional Cooperation:

The European Commission, European Parliament, and Council of the EU work together to develop and implement policies that reflect the EU's goals, ensuring that different perspectives are integrated into policymaking.

## Monitoring and Evaluation:

The EU assesses the effectiveness of its policies in achieving its goals through various reports, evaluations, and feedback mechanisms. This allows for adjustments and improvements to be made as needed.

# A Structured Approach Connecting Policies to Goals

## Stakeholder Engagement:

The EU engages with various stakeholders, including member states, businesses, and civil society, to ensure that policies are relevant and effectively address the goals.

## Multi-level Governance:

Policies are implemented at different levels (EU, national, regional) to ensure that local contexts and needs are considered while aligning with overarching EU goals.

By connecting policies to its goals, the EU seeks to create a cohesive and integrated approach that **benefits its member states and citizens**, fostering **unity and cooperation** across the continent.

# The European Commission Priorities

-  European green deal
-  A Europe fit for the digital age
-  Promoting our European way of life
-  An economy that works for people
-  A stronger Europe in the world
-  A new push for European democracy

The European Commission establishes a set of priorities for its term (usually five years), which outline the **main areas where the EU needs to take action**. These priorities reflect pressing challenges and long-term goals for the Union.

These priorities set the overarching agenda that guides the **development and implementation of specific policies**.

**EU policies are tools to achieve the European Commission's strategic priorities**. They provide the framework for actions, legislation, and funding to reach those objectives. This ensures that the Commission's work is coordinated, targeted, and results-oriented across various policy areas.

## Six Commission priorities for 2019-24



European green deal



to be the first climate-neutral continent by becoming a modern, resource-efficient economy.



A Europe fit for the digital age



to empower people with a new generation of technologies.



Promoting our European way of life



to protect the rule of law if it is to stand up for justice and the EU's core values.



An economy that works for people



to create a more attractive investment environment, and growth that creates quality jobs, especially for young people and small businesses.



A stronger Europe in the world



to strengthen its voice in the world by championing multilateralism and a rules-based global order.



A new push for European democracy



to give Europeans a bigger say and protect our democracy from external interference such as disinformation and online hate messages.

# The European Green Deal



# A Europe Fit for the Digital Age

## Key Actions Planned to Promote the Digital Transition:

- European Data Strategy
- European Approach to Artificial Intelligence
- Digital Services Regulation Law
- Strengthening Cybersecurity
- Digital Solutions for Consumers
- New Industrial Strategy for Europe
- Towards a European Research Area
- Digital Finance



# Promoting our European way of life

## Key Actions Planned:

- European Health Union
- Strategy on the future of Schengen
- European Health Data Space
- European Security Union
- European Care Strategy
- Migration and asylum
- Europe's Beating Cancer Plan
- EU strategy on combating antisemitism
- EU agenda to tackle organised crime and on counter-terrorism



# An Economy that Works for People

## Key Actions Planned:

- Delivering a strong Social Europe
- European Skills Agenda
- New Consumer Agenda
- Working conditions of platform workers
- Small and medium-size enterprises strategy
- European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan
- Adequate minimum wages in the EU
- New Business Taxation Agenda
- Capital Markets Union



# A Stronger Europe in the World

## Key Actions Planned:

- EU solidarity with Ukraine
- Food security
- Support for the people in Türkiye and Syria
- EU-US trade and technology council
- A new agenda for the Mediterranean
- The Middle East crisis
- Global Gateway
- Global response to coronavirus
- Anti-coercion instrument
- Enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans



# A New Push for European Democracy

## Key Actions Planned:

- European citizens' panels
- Equality and inclusion
- Protecting democracy
- European Media Freedom Act
- Conference on the Future of Europe
- The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child
- Rule of Law Mechanism
- Long-term vision for rural areas



# The EU Recovery Action Plan

**Main objective:** to support member states in recovering from the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It aims **to build a resilient, sustainable, and inclusive economy through strategic investments and reforms.**

## **Key Components**

### **1. Next Generation EU Fund**

- A €750 billion recovery instrument to finance projects that promote green and digital transitions.
- Focus on helping economies rebound while fostering long-term growth.

### **2. National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs)**

- Each member state submits a plan detailing reforms and investments aligned with EU priorities.
- Funding is conditional on the successful implementation of these plans.

# The EU Recovery Action Plan

## 3. Investment in Green Transition

- Promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable transportation.
- Commitment to achieving climate neutrality by 2050.

## 4. Digital Transformation Initiatives

- Funding for digital infrastructure, skills development, and innovation.
- Support for the transition to a digital economy, enhancing connectivity across the EU.

## 5. Support for Employment and Social Inclusion

- Measures to protect jobs and support vulnerable groups affected by the pandemic.
- Initiatives to promote education, training, and reskilling opportunities.

# The EU Budget for 2021-2027



**How are the EU policies transformed into  
actionable initiatives that shape our future?**

# The Role of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)

The **Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)** is the crucial **instrument** that the EU uses to turn its priorities and policies into actionable initiatives. It **outlines the long-term budget** of the EU, ensuring that resources are allocated effectively to meet strategic objectives.

## Key Features of the MFF

### 1. Budget Allocation:

- Establishes spending limits for various EU programs and initiatives, ensuring resources are directed toward strategic areas.

### 2. Policy Support:

- Provides the financial means to implement key EU policies, such as the Green Deal, digital transformation, and social inclusion initiatives.

# The Role of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)

## 3. Flexibility:

- Allows for adjustments to respond to unforeseen challenges and emerging priorities, such as the COVID-19 pandemic recovery efforts.

## 4. Strategic Planning:

- Facilitates long-term planning by setting financial priorities that align with the EU's strategic objectives.

**The resources of the Multiannual Financial Framework are organised into FUNDS, each with a specific mission.**

# THE NEW MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK 2021 – 2027

## A BUDGET FOR A UNION THAT PROTECTS, EMPOWERS AND DEFENDS

In billion euro, current prices

### I. SINGLE MARKET, INNOVATION AND DIGITAL €187.4

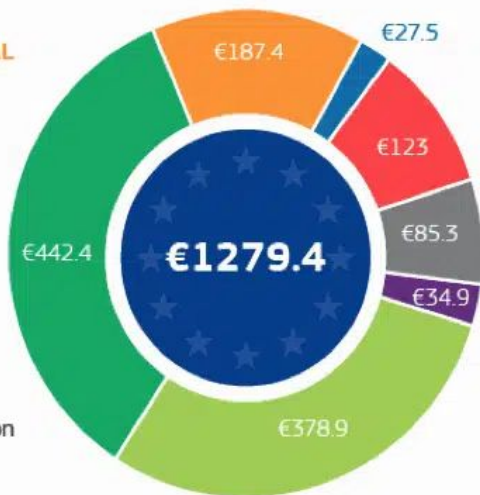
- 1 Research and Innovation
- 2 European Strategic Investments
- 3 Single Market
- 4 Space

### II. COHESION AND VALUES €442.4

- 5 Regional Development and Cohesion
- 6 Economic and Monetary Union
- 7 Investing in People, Social Cohesion and Values

### III. NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT €378.9

- 8 Agriculture and Maritime Policy
- 9 Environment and Climate Action



### IV. MIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT €34.9

- 10 Migration
- 11 Border Management

### V. SECURITY AND DEFENCE €27.5

- 12 Security
- 13 Defence
- 14 Crisis Response

### VI. NEIGHBOURHOOD AND THE WORLD €123

- 15 External Action
- 16 Pre-Accession Assistance

### VII. EUROPEAN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION €85.3

- 17 European Public Administration

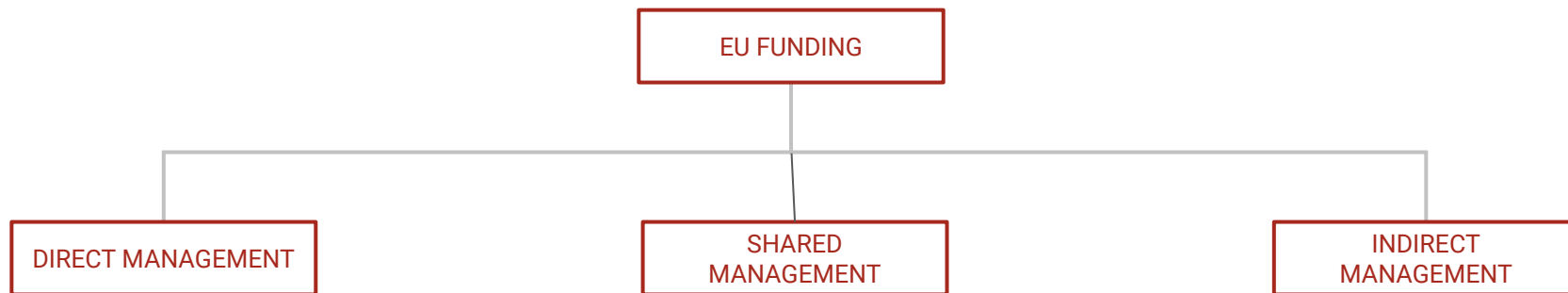
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# EU FUNDING MANAGEMENT



- Managed by EU Commission
- Typically used for large-scale projects with clear EU objectives

**Examples:**

*Research and Innovation Programs  
COSME*

- Managed by national authorities or agencies
- Focus on local implementation of EU policies

***European Structural and Investment Fund:***

*Cohesion Fund*

*European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)*

*Social Fund*

*European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development*

*European Maritime and Fisheries Fund*

- Partly or fully implemented with the support of entities either inside or outside the EU
- EU budget allocated to humanitarian aid and international development

**Examples:**

*Erasmus +*

*European Food Safety Authority*

# Direct Management

In direct management, the European Commission is directly responsible for all steps in a programme's implementation:

- launching the calls for proposals
- evaluating submitted proposals
- signing grant agreements
- monitoring project implementation
- assessing the results
- making payments

These tasks are carried out by the Commission's departments, at its headquarters, in the EU delegations; **there are no third parties**. Programmes implemented in direct management account for around 20% of the EU budget 2021-2027.

Calls for proposals under direct management are published on the [Funding and Tenders Portal](#)

# Shared Management

In shared management, **both the European Commission and national authorities in Member States**, such as ministries and public institutions, are in charge of running a particular programme. Around 70% of EU programmes are run this way.

For instance, **if you are a farmer** anywhere in the EU, and have a project to start growing organic tomatoes, you would be eligible to apply for funds under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). For that, you would have to **go through your country's Ministry of Agriculture**, or an equivalent institution, which would be in charge of managing the funds for your project on behalf of the EU.

The Member States' administrations (at national, regional and local level) choose which projects to finance and take responsibility for day-to-day management. Working together with the Member States, the Commission makes sure that the projects are successfully concluded, and the money is well spent.

National single portals for shared management funds:

[EU fondovi Hrvatska](#)

[Opencoessione](#)

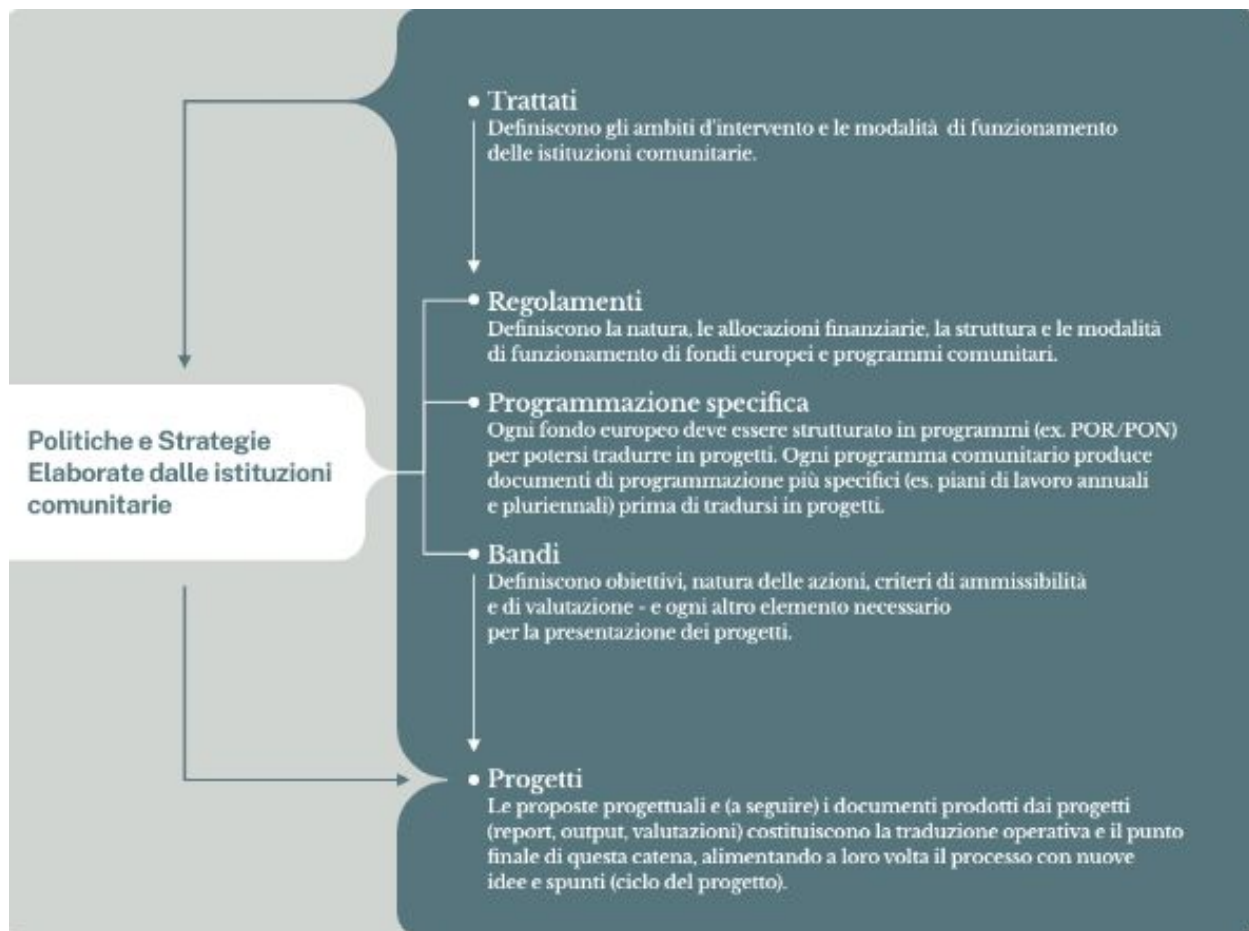
# Indirect Management

Some funding programmes are partly or fully implemented with the support of entities, e.g. national authorities or international organisations. The majority of the EU budget allocated to humanitarian aid and international development, for instance, is implemented under indirect management.

Examples include the **financial support to fight Ebola outbreak** in West Africa and the earthquake in Nepal in 2015. Programmes implemented under indirect management account for around 10% of the overall EU budget.

Under this management mode, the Commission delegates budget execution tasks to different types of implementing partners, for example:

- Third countries or the bodies they have designated
- International organisations such as the United Nations (UN) family, the World bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Investment Fund (EIF)
- **Decentralised agencies** such as the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) or the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex)
- Public-private partnerships, including Joint Undertakings such as Initiative on Innovative Medicines, Shift2Rail, European High Performance Computing (EuroHPC)
- Member States Bodies such as **Erasmus+ national agencies**, Member States' development agencies, National Promotional Banks



# Call for Proposals

The **notice is an official text** detailing:

- object and objectives
- beneficiaries and minimal requirement to apply
- financial amounts
- selection criteria
- procedures
- link to the website for downloading documents

**To present the proposal** is important:

- carry out an analysis of the eligible measures and the relevant priorities indicated in the call for proposals (attention to exclusion clauses)
- emphasise the European dimension, the innovative and transnational character
- comply with the formal criteria for submitting the proposal
- meet the deadlines and schedules indicated in the call for proposals

# What Do We Mean by EU Project?

## EU PROJECTS = A FORM OF IMPLEMENTATION OF EU POLICIES

- a policy objective
- specific objectives
- work packages
- deliverables and outputs
- quantitative and qualitative indicators
- results



### APPLICATION FORM

- It contains all the information necessary to implement the project (including details about partners, budget, etc.)
- it serves, in the case of funding, as a reference point for the entire duration of the project.

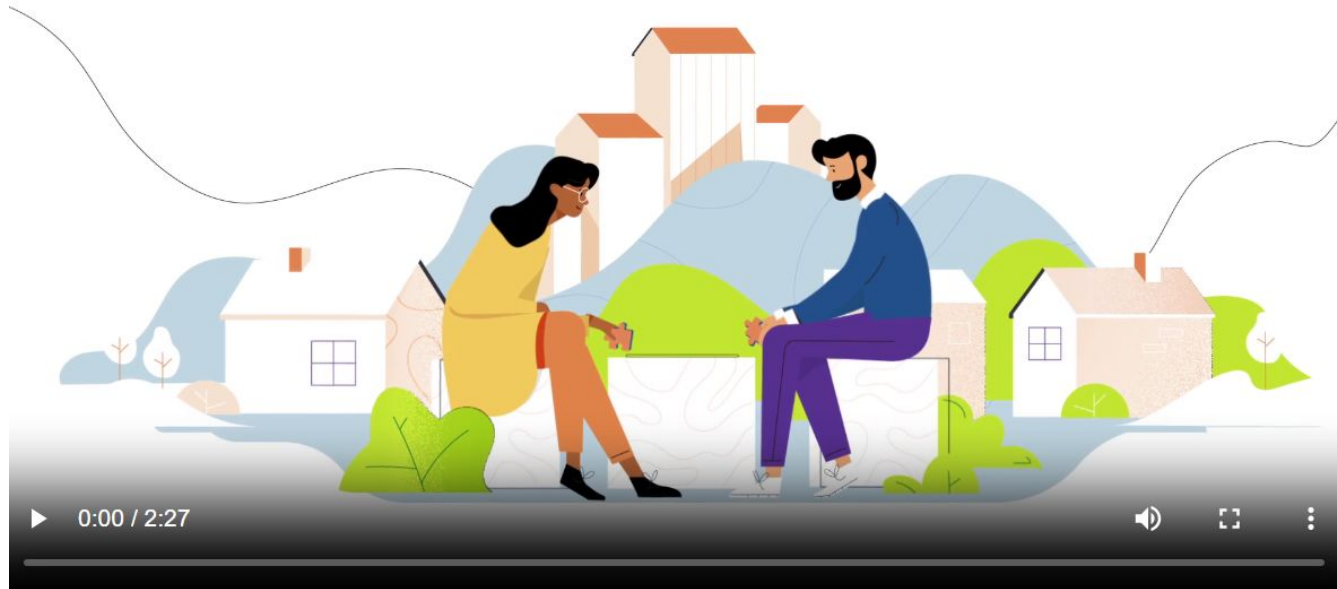
Projects are evaluated, and the selected projects are awarded with a grant (co-financing).

## Part III

# Focus on the Cohesion Policy

# Cohesion Policy 2021-2027

## REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COHESION



# Thematic Focus Areas



OP1 - Europa più intelligente						
Ricerca e innovazione		Competenze		Competitività PMI		Digitalizzazione
OP2 - Europa più verde						
Efficienza Energetica	Energie Rinnovabili	Reti intelligenti	Cambiamento Climatico e Rischi	Gestione sost. Acque	Economia Circolare	Biodiversità, infrastrutture verdi
OP3 - Europa più connessa						
Reti digitali		Reti TEN-T	Altre reti di Trasporto		Mobilità urbana sostenibile	
OP4 - Europa più sociale						
Occupazione		Inclusione sociale		Istruzione e formazione		
OP5 - Europa più vicina ai cittadini						
Sviluppo integrato in aree urbane			Sviluppo integrato in aree rurali e costiere (aree interne)			

# Budget Overview and Funding

**Total Budget:** Approximately €392 billion allocated.

## **Main Funds:**

- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)
- Cohesion Fund (CF)

## **Types of Support:**

- Grants
- Loans
- Financial instruments

## Implementation Mechanism

- **Partnership Principle:** Collaboration among the EU, member states, and regional authorities.
- **Programming Process:** Multiannual programs tailored to regional needs.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Ensuring accountability and effective use of funds.

## Expected Outcomes

- **Regional Development:** Reduction in disparities among EU regions.
- **Job Creation:** Increased employment opportunities.
- **Sustainable Growth:** Enhanced resilience against economic shocks.
- **Improved Quality of Life:** Better living standards for citizens.

# Questions and Answers

**Thank you for your attention**