

Regional

Studies

Association

THE GLOBAL FORUM FOR CITY  
AND REGIONAL RESEARCH,  
DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY

The RSA Research Network on

## Effectiveness, Added Value and Future of EU Cohesion Policy



EU cohesion policy, arguably one of the most visible and most debated EU policies, provides assistance to disadvantaged regions and localities through an innovative multi-level and partnership-based approach. It has also been credited for generating 'added value' in terms of improvement of administrative capacity and triggering modernisation processes within territorial administration across the Member States. This is accomplished by diffusion of standards of 'good governance' and policy practices such as partnership, multi-annual programming, place-based approach to development policy, evaluation, cross-border cooperation, etc.

Nevertheless, given the current pressures on cutting public spending, it is increasingly difficult to justify EU cohesion's policy prominent position in the EU budget and the policy has come under close scrutiny. It is thus critically important to deliver a more effective and results-oriented EU cohesion policy, capable of achieving its aims, creating more added value and providing innovative policy instruments to tackle the new global economic challenges.

The rationale for establishment of this RSA Research Network is the need to bring together academics investigating the issues effectiveness, impacts, and added value of EU cohesion policy, as well as practitioners working with this policy. This will allow for promoting dialogue and synergies between the two communities, exploring new exciting research avenues and contributing to the policy debate. The network addresses the following key issues for EU cohesion policy:

- Governance and partnership for delivering effective place-based interventions,
- Territorial cooperation and macro-regional approaches,
- Delivering a more results-oriented policy, which considers issues such as conditionalities, enhancing programming and evaluation practice,
- EU cohesion policy and its role in achieving the aims of Europe 2020 strategy,
- Budgetary politics in the wake of a new programming period 2014-2020,
- New financial instruments.

The activities of the Network will be structured around three international workshops to be held in Vienna (November 2011 - [Institute for European Integration Research](#)), Paris (March 2012 - [CERI Sciences Po / CoesioNet](#)), and Glasgow (Autumn 2012 - [European Policies Research Centre](#)). The aim of the workshops will be to provide a platform for exchanging knowledge and debating the latest research on the above topics. The workshops will encourage open discussion and understanding between academics specialising in EU cohesion policy, while at the same time engaging with, and learning from, practitioners and policy-makers.

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