



EUROPEAN SEMESTER 2020

How Cohesion policy funds support Member States' green reforms

The European Semester is about helping Member States to identify the reforms that are needed to ensure a thriving economy and sound finances. To execute these reforms, Member States may need to invest, and the EU funds - in particular the Cohesion Policy funds - can be of great support.

To ensure coherence between the European Commission's economic policy guidance and the use of EU funds by Member States, the Commission in 2019 started to outline, for each Member State, which areas of investment could be supported by the EU Cohesion Policy funds to support the countries' most needed reforms.

Leaving no one behind in the transition to a greener Europe

The EU's objective is to be climate-neutral by 2050. Reforms that help accomplish the cuts in CO2 emissions are necessary. This year, the Commission's investment guidance therefore focusses on ensuring a fair transition towards a greener Europe.

The Semester country reports zoom in on the regions and sectors that are most economically and socially challenged by the transition towards climate neutrality. Based on this analysis, the Commission proposes on where and how to target the financial support from the Just Transition Fund. Territorial just transition plans will be a prerequisite for receiving such support. These plans will be discussed and developed in dialogue with the Member States, in the same of cooperation as for the programming of the Cohesion Policy funds.

