



Provisions, hooks and entry points for:

Environmental mainstreaming and sustainable development in Cohesion Policy 2014 -2020

December 2013

Introduction

This toolkit provides EU funds practitioners, whether it be relevant officials in municipalities, potential EU funds grantees, local communities, civil society organisations or interested members of the public, with an overview of all the legal regulations related to environmental mainstreaming and sustainable development that have been introduced into the forthcoming EU budgetary period of 2014-2020. In practical terms, coverage is provided, too, of the relevant environmental mainstreaming strategies and mechanisms.

Also included is a brief introduction to the CO2MPARE tool that has been developed to allow interested parties to calculate the carbon footprint of activities that have been set out by funding authorities in EU funds operational programmes.

These new environmental requirements should be the building blocks on which significantly greater quality EU spending is delivered over the next seven years, spending that needs to do more for communities across Europe and our local and collective environment.

Bankwatch and Friends of the Earth Europe intend to closely monitor the new round of EU spending in our region of central and eastern Europe, and we will work to ensure that environmental aspirations and regulations are neither abused or left to gather dust in a filing cabinet marked EU funds – they must be adhered to and see the full light of day, for the collective European good.

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1. Investment priorities with environmental focus

a) Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) – Art. 9 - Thematic objectives

- 1) Research, technological development and innovation;
- 2) Information and communication technologies;
- 3) Competitiveness of SMEs, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF);
- 4) Shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors;**
- 5) Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention & management;**
- 6) Preserving and protecting the environment & promoting resource efficiency;**
- 7) Promoting sustainable transport & removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures;**
- 8) Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility;
- 9) Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination;
- 10) Education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning;
- 11) **Institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders** and an efficient public administration.

b) Investment priorities relating to environment (ERDF + Cohesion Fund)

- Investing in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by Member States, for investment going beyond those requirements;
- Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis and to address needs, identified by Member States, for investment going beyond those requirements;
- Protecting and restoring biodiversity, soil protection and restoration and promoting ecosystem services including NATURA 2000 and green infrastructures;
- Action to improve the urban environment, revitalisation of cities, regeneration and decontamination of brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduction of air pollution and promotion of noise-reduction measures.
- Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy through investments in Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy sources, smart energy management and sustainable urban development including transport.

c) Investment priorities relating to environment (ERDF only)

- Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage;
- Promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector, soil protection or to reduce air pollution;
- Supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors.

d) ERDF (art. 5) – investment priorities/Thematic Objectives (TO)

TO 4 - supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors:

- (a) promoting the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable sources;
- (b) promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises;
- (c) supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector; infrastructures and in the housing sector;
- (d) developing and implementing smart distribution systems at low and medium voltage levels;
- (e) promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multi-modal urban mobility and mitigation relevant adaptation measures;
- (ea) promoting research in, innovation in and adoption of low-carbon technologies;
- (eb) promoting the use of high-efficiency co-generation of heat and power based on useful heat demand;

TO 5 - promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management through:

- (a) adaptation to climate change, including eco-system based approaches;
- (b) address specific risks, disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems;

TO 6 - preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency through:

- (a) Investments in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the acquis (..);
- (b) Investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of the acquis (..) ;
- (c) conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage;
- (d) protecting and restoring biodiversity, soil protection and restoration and promoting ecosystem services including NATURA 2000 and green infrastructures;
- (e) action to improve the urban environment, revitalisation of cities, regeneration and decontamination of brownfield sites, reduction of air pollution, noise reduction measures;
- (ea) promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector, soil protection or to reduce air pollution;
- (eb) supporting industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy, promoting green growth, eco-innovation and environmental performance management in the public and private sectors;

e) Cohesion Fund (art. 2) – scope of support

The CF shall support :

- (a) investments in the environment, sustainable development and energy which present environmental benefits;
- (b) trans-European networks in the area of transport infrastructure;
- (c) technical assistance.

while ensuring an appropriate balance and according to the investment and infrastructure needs specific to each MS.

f) Cohesion Fund (art. 3) – investment priorities

(b) Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management:

(i) adaptation to climate change, including eco-system based approaches;

(ii) address specific risks, disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems;

(c) preserving and protecting the environment, promoting resource efficiency

(i) investing in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the acquis

(ii) investing in the water sector to meet the requirements of acquis

(iii) protecting and restoring biodiversity, soil protection and restoration and promoting ecosystem services including through NATURA 2000 and green infrastructures;

(iv) action to improve the urban environment, revitalisation of cities, regeneration and decontamination of brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduction of air pollution and noise-reduction measures.

g) European Social Fund (art. 3) – scope of support

- Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon, climate-resilient, resource-efficient and environmentally sustainable economy,

- through the improvement of education and training systems necessary for the adaptation of skills and qualifications, up-skilling of the labour force, and the creation of new jobs in sectors related to the environment and energy;

h) ERDF thematic concentration on “shift towards a low-carbon economy”

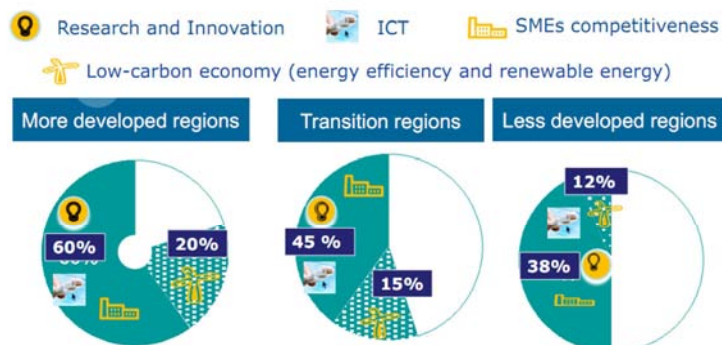
- At least 80% (more developed regions), 60 % (transition regions) or 50% (less developed regions) to innovation, ICT, SMEs and low carbon economy.

- At least 20% (more developed), 15% (transition regions) or 12% (15% if measures under Cohesion Fund are counted in) (less developed regions) to low carbon economy.

o The Cohesion Fund can contribute to ERDF thematic concentration requirements for the low carbon economy. In case of less developed regions, this will increase the requirement from 12 % to 15%.

o For the purposes of thematic concentration NUTS 2 regions consisting solely of island MS or of islands in MS which receive support from the CF, or which are outermost regions, shall be considered less developed regions.

ERDF thematic concentration



2. Tools for environmental mainstreaming

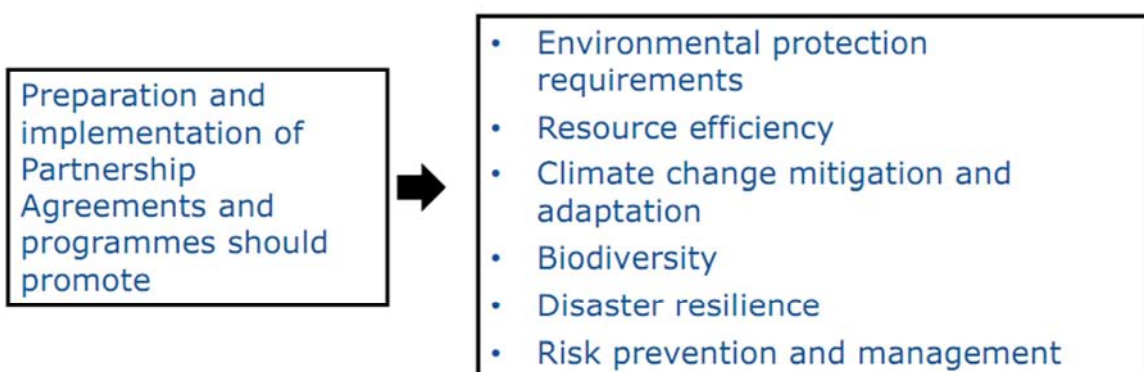
a) Mainstreaming of sustainable development (art. 8 CPR) – horizontal principle

Mandate from the EU Treaty regarding sustainable development and preserving, protecting and improving the environment:

- “The objectives of the ESI Funds shall be pursued in the framework of sustainable development and (...) preserving, protecting and improving the environment, (...) taking into account the polluter pays principle.”
- MSs and the Commission shall ensure that environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management are promoted in the preparation and implementation of PAs and OPs.
- Application of horizontal principles shall be described in the PA (art. 14, CPR).
- Each OP shall include a description of how environmental protection requirements, resource efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster resilience and risk prevention and management are taken into account.
- Monitoring committees shall examine the actions to promote SD (art. 100, CPR).
- Implementation reports to be prepared as of 2016, shall describe the actions taken to promote SD (art. 101, CPR).
- Specific tracking the financial support for climate change objectives via Rio Markers applied to the categories of intervention.

Mainstreaming of sustainable development (art. 8 CPR)

- Mandate from the Treaty regarding sustainable development and preserving, protecting and improving the environment
- Article 8 CPR: obligation for Member States / Commission:



- Specific tracking of climate-related expenditure

b) Climate mainstreaming in EU Policies – Europe 2020 – EU Budget

Please check DG Clima climate mainstreaming assessment sheets:

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/publications/index_en.htm#Mainstreaming

Respectively look at selected copy-pasted examples in the Annex of the paper

Climate mainstreaming in EU Budget 2014-2020

-- At least 20% climate-related expenditure as reaffirmed by Council 7-8 February 2013

- Tracking of climate spending

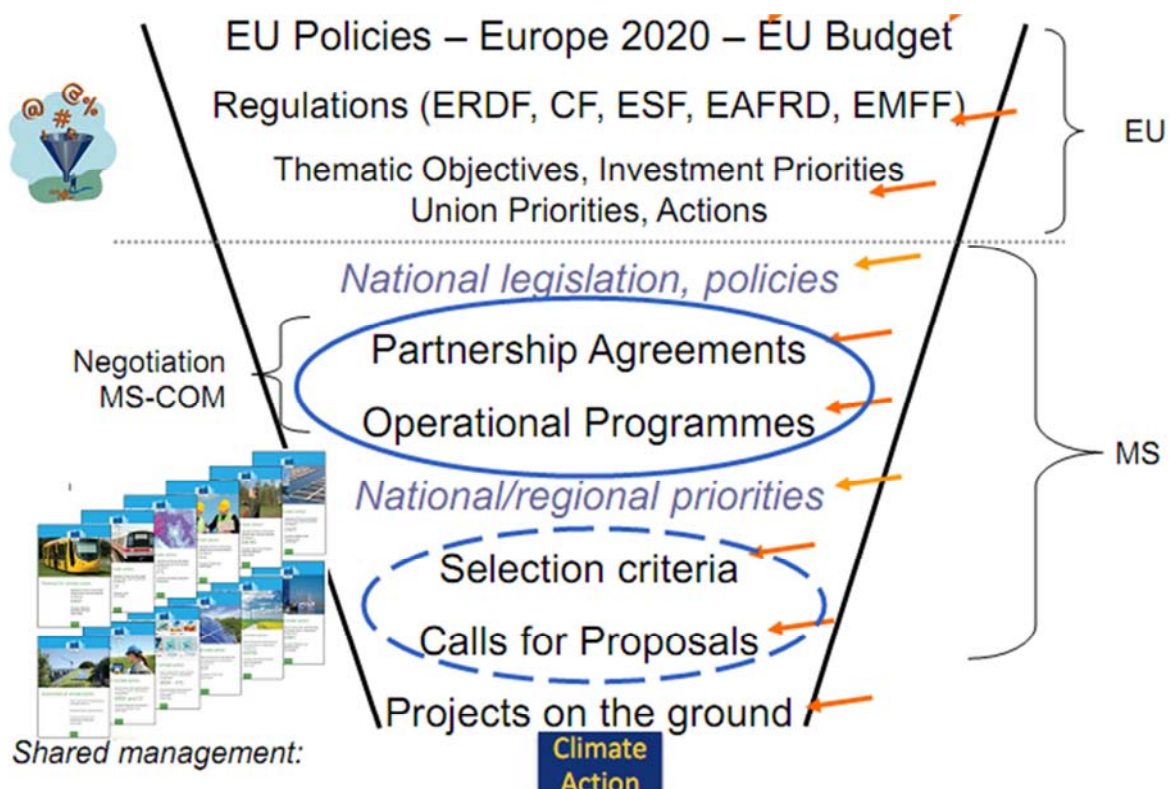
Proposed legislative package for ESIF 2014-2020 (ERDF, ESF, CF, EAFRD, EMFF)

- Thematic objective 4 'supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors'

- Thematic objective 5 'promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management'

(- see fund-specific regulations, e.g. ERDF and CF)

- Mainstreaming across all thematic objectives, investment priorities:



- Relevant additional funding mechanisms include, for example JEREMIE and JESSICA, and the Horizon 2020 and LIFE programmes should include climate action
- PA shows the total indicative amount of support foreseen for climate change objectives

- Financial allocations for climate action will contribute to reaching the overall EU target that 20 % of EU expenditures should be climate related. They must respect the defined minimum allocations for TO4.
- effective implementation requires an appropriate indicator framework for performance monitoring

c) CO2MPARE – Carbon Tracking Tool for OPs

CO2MPARE is an EXCEL tool calculating the carbon impact of OPs based on the allocations to the various categories of intervention. Each category of intervention has a “typical” carbon footprint. By assessing the emission impact per euro spent for a given type of activity in this category and multiplying this by the amount spent on the activity, the CO2 emissions of different spending scenarios for an OP can be compared.

The tool as such is quite easy to handle, you just enter the amounts for each category of intervention, and EXCEL automatically calculates CO2 emissions. However, the default carbon impact value of a specific category of intervention is based on "Standardized Investment Components" (SICs). These are different from country to country, and needed to be adjusted country specific to give an ABSOLUT evidence of estimated CO2 emissions. National experts would need to create the appropriate SICs for your country. But still you can use CO2MPARE to make a RELATIVE assessment of the OP, i.e. “if EUR 200 mio would be shifted from roads to rail, we could decrease the CO2 impact of that OP by 20%”.

Get the tool and guidance here:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/newsroom/detail.cfm?id=673&lang=en

d) Common Strategic Framework (CSF) (ANNEX 1 CPR)

“The Common Strategic Framework shall provide strategic guiding principles in order to achieve an integrated development approach using the European Structural and Investment Funds coordinated with other Union instruments and policies, in line with the policy objectives and headline targets of the Europe 2020 strategy and, where appropriate, the flagship initiatives, while taking into account the key territorial challenges and specific national, regional and local contexts.”

LIFE and the environmental acquis

1. Member States and the Commission shall, through the application of the principle of sustainable development in accordance with Article 8, seek to exploit synergies with Union policy instruments (both funding and non-funding instruments) serving climate change mitigation and adaptation, environmental protection and resource efficiency.
2. Member States shall promote and, ensure complementarity and coordination with LIFE, in particular with integrated projects in the areas of nature, biodiversity, water, waste, air, climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation ... through integrated projects under the LIFE Programme as well as by promoting the use of solutions, methods and approaches validated under the LIFE Programme, inter alia, including investments in green infrastructure, energy efficiency, eco-innovation, ecosystem-based solutions, and the adoption of related innovative technologies.

3. The relevant sectoral plans, programmes or strategies (including the Prioritised Action Framework, the River Basin Management Plan, the Waste Management Plan, the mitigation plan or adaptation strategy) may serve as the coordination framework, where support is foreseen for these areas.

Transport and the Connecting Europe Facility

Member States shall focus on sustainable forms of transport and sustainable urban mobility, taking into account the need to improve the quality, accessibility and reliability of transport services to promote public transport. Once identified, investments shall be prioritised according to their contribution to mobility, sustainability, to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and to the Single European Transport Area, in accordance with the vision set out in the Commission's White Paper on Transport for a competitive and resource-efficient transport system, highlighting that a significant reduction in greenhouse gases is required in the transport sector. The contribution of projects to sustainable European freight transport networks through the development of inland waterways should be promoted on the basis of a prior assessment of their environmental impact.

Sustainable development

Member States and managing authorities shall, in all phases of implementation, ensure the full mainstreaming of sustainable development into the European Structural and Investment Funds, respecting the principle of sustainable development as laid down in Article 3(3) of the Treaty on European Union, as well as the obligation to integrate environmental protection requirements according to Article 11 and the polluter pays principle as set out in Article 191(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Managing authorities shall undertake actions throughout the programme lifecycle, to avoid or reduce environmentally harmful effects of interventions and ensure results in net social, environmental and climate benefits. Actions to be undertaken may include the following:

- (a) directing investments towards the most resource-efficient and sustainable options,
- (b) avoiding investments that may have a significant negative environmental or climate impact, and supporting actions to mitigate any remaining impacts,
- (c) taking a long-term perspective when 'life-cycle' costs of alternative options for investment are compared,
- (d) increasing the use of green public procurement.

Member States shall take into consideration the climate change mitigation and adaptation potential of investments made with the support of the European Structural and Investment Funds, in accordance with Article 8 of this Regulation, and ensure that they are resilient to the impact of climate change and natural disasters such as increased risks of flooding, droughts, heat waves, forest fires and extreme weather events.

Investments shall be consistent with the water management hierarchy (in line with the EU Water Framework Directive), with a focus on demand management options. Alternative supply options shall only be considered when the potential for water savings and efficiency has been exhausted. Public intervention in the waste management sector shall complement efforts by the private sector, in particular in relation to producer responsibility. Investments shall encourage innovative approaches that promote high levels of recycling. Investments shall be consistent with the waste hierarchy established under Directive 2008/98/EC (Waste Framework Directive). Expenditure related to biodiversity and the protection of natural resources shall be consistent with the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

Climate change mitigation and adaptation

In accordance with Article 8 of this Regulation climate change mitigation and adaptation and risk prevention shall be integrated in the preparation and implementation of Partnership Agreements and programmes.

e) Environmental ex-ante conditionalities (EACs)

One general EAC: effective application of the EIA-SEA legislation.

Two thematic EAC for environment:

- water sector (adequate water pricing policy and adoption of river basin management plans;
- Waste sector (implementation report, waste management plans, waste prevention programmes and necessary measures to achieve the recycling targets for 2020).

EAC for energy: current EE and RES regulations, Buildings' Performance, Energy Efficiency, Renewables

- measures to ensure minimum requirements are in place related to the energy performance of buildings;
- measures necessary to establish a system of certification of the energy performance of buildings;
- measures to ensure strategic planning on energy efficiency;
- Transparent support schemes, priority in grid access or guaranteed access and priority in dispatching, as well as standard rules relating to the bearing and sharing of costs of technical adaptations which have been made public are in place;
- A Member State has adopted a national renewable energy action plan;

EAC for transport: existence of a comprehensive transport plan which fulfills legal requirements for SEA

f) Ex ante evaluation of programmes

The ex-ante evaluation of the OPs shall appraise the adequacy of planned measures to promote sustainable development (art. 48(3)(m))

Ex-ante evaluations shall incorporate, where appropriate, the requirements for Strategic Environmental Assessment set out in implementation of Directive 2001/42/EC.

3. The urban dimension

Territorial development has four possible dimensions; all with a possible relation to climate action and environment: community-led local development, integrated territorial investments, sustainable urban development:

a) Sustainable Urban Development

Challenges to tackle:

- Urban sprawl
- Sustainable use of resources
- Urban & rural eco-systems
- Urban mobility

Ways to tackle:

- Enhancing the integrated approach
- Better involvement of cities

➔ Significant environmental/climate aspect to SUD in the 2014-2020 period:

- *Built into ERDF Article 7 – Sustainable urban development*

“The ERDF shall support, within OP, sustainable urban development through strategies setting out integrated actions to tackle the economic, environmental, climate, demographic and social challenges affecting urban areas, taking into account the need to promote urban-rural linkages.”

- At least 5% of the ERDF resources shall be allocated at national level: Member States should earmark at least 5% of ERDF resources for integrated sustainable urban development with a degree of management delegated to urban authority level (level of delegation depends on administrative structure and capacity but there is a minimum requirement =selection of projects)
- Including many environment-related urban investment priorities – energy efficiency in housing sector, sustainable urban mobility, climate change adaptation, action to improve the urban environment and regenerate brownfield sites etc.
- Environmental challenges will also be tackled through Urban Innovative Actions and Community-Led Local Development

b) Investment priorities targeted at urban areas

Article 5 of the ERDF regulation

- 4(e) promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multi-modal urban mobility and mitigation relevant adaptation measures;
- 6(e) action to improve the urban environment, revitalisation of cities, [...] regeneration and decontamination of brownfield sites (including conversion areas), reduction of air pollution and promotion of noise-reduction measures;

- 9(b) support for physical, economic and social regeneration of deprived communities in urban and rural areas,
- To be implemented through integrated urban strategies (IUS) that take into account economic, social, environmental, climate and demographic challenges.
- Three ways to programme the minimum 5% - dedicated OP, dedicated priority axis, or through Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI). (Information received suggests most Member States will opt for either dedicated priority axis or ITI)

Urban Innovative Actions (Article 8 ERDF regulation)

- €330m (2014-2020)
- To promote innovative and experimental approaches and solutions in the field of sustainable urban development
- Possible for all thematic objectives of cohesion policy
- For example: forward-looking and cutting-edge studies, pilot projects and demonstration projects of EU interest (to be judged on innovative character, transferability)

c) Community-Led Local Development

Article 28-31 CPR

- Based on the LEADER approach (EARDF)
- Support from all 5 Funds (ERDF, ESF, CF, EARDF, EMFF)
- Support for local development strategies – can be focused on environmental challenges (e.g. on carbon reduction in an area)
- Designed and implemented by the local community (local action groups)
- Partners from public and private sector, civil society, etc.
- Neither public sector nor any interest group to represent more than 49% of voting rights!

4. Capacity building

a) JASPERS toolkit for training and capacity building on EIA/SEA

- Capacity building events
- Adoption of best practices and guidelines
- Toolkit and recommendations for developing a comprehensive training strategy on SEA/EIA
- Guidelines on the implementation of art.7 of the EIA Directive
- Guidelines for developing EIA reports for recurrent type of sectoral projects
- The toolkit is available on the Publication section of the JASPERS Networking Platform website (www.jaspersnetwork.org)

b) Technical assistance for stakeholders

- Art. 5 ERDF, (11) enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and an efficient public administration by strengthening of institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services related to implementation of the ERDF, and in support of actions in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administration supported by the ESF.
- Article 52 ERDF: Technical Assistance of the Member States: At the initiative of a Member State, the ESI Funds may support actions for preparation, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and communication, networking, complaint resolution, and control and audit. The ESI Funds may be used by the Member State to support actions for the reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries, including electronic data exchange systems, actions to reinforce the capacity of Member State authorities and beneficiaries to administer and use these Funds, as well as actions to reinforce the capacity of, and exchange best practices between, relevant partners in line with Article 5(3) (e). These actions may concern preceding and subsequent programming periods.

5. Major projects

CPR – Art. 90-92 Major projects (MP) 2014-20:

- > €50 million and >€75 million for transport - total eligible costs
- Major Projects are assessed by independent experts or by the Commission.
- An analysis of the environmental impact taking into account climate change adaptation and mitigation needs and disaster resilience -> upgrade compared to 2007-13, where the analysis of the environmental impact was “among other” info to be submitted
- List of MP to be submitted with OPs

6. Delegated Acts/Implementing Acts concerning ERDF/Cohesion Fund

Delegated acts:

- Code of Conduct on Partnership
- Allocation performance reserve
- Simplified costs
- Functions of Authorities

Implementing acts:

- Contents of ETC programmes
- Contents of implementation reports
- Reporting on sustainable development

7. ANNEX: DG CLIMATE ACTION fact sheets for climate mainstreaming – excerpts

a) Mitigation actions ERDF

TO	Examples/Selected Investment priorities	Potential mitigation action
1	Establishing and supporting mitigation-oriented Research and Innovation (R&I), clusters and networks that combine research, innovation and business	Stimulate innovation and commercial uptake of ideas, e.g. in tidal and wave energy, in energy saving technologies and in resource-efficient production. This could take the form of regional knowledge transfer projects that improve access for businesses to regional knowledge bases and facilitate interaction between business and research. This can help translate ideas into innovation, which is then translated into commercial activities. One such example is Innovation in Crops (InCrops) in East Anglia (United Kingdom, REGIOSTAR finalist 2013).
2	Improving access to and the quality of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	ICT has an important role to play in tackling climate change by enabling sectors such as transport, buildings, power and industry to become more efficient low-carbon sectors. For example, the Energy Management System in Haarlem as part of Amsterdam Smart City demonstrates the potential of ICTs to improve energy efficiency in domestic households.
3	Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs	SMEs are a major source of economic growth and job creation in the EU. Helping them to achieve low-carbon growth can help ensure their competitiveness while also reducing emissions. Advisory services can raise awareness amongst SMEs of the profitability of low-carbon strategies, possibly combined with a more general focus on resource efficiency and sustainability. Green Business Growth in SMEs in Southern Denmark is an example (REGIOSTAR finalist 2013).
4	Shift towards the low-carbon and climate resilient economy	The 'low-carbon and climate resilient economy' refers to one which burns less fossil fuel and, as a result, emits lower volumes of GHG emissions. Projects may promote the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures to displace or reduce traditional fossil fuel use. For example, they may include the development of zero-emission hydrogen fuelling infrastructure such as the Hydrogen Region Flanders-South Netherlands project (REGIOSTAR finalist 2013), which focusses on early market demonstration of hydrogen technology developed by SMEs.
4	Supporting energy efficiency in public infrastructure	Improved energy efficiency in public infrastructures can, for example, be provided through the construction of new building infrastructure that incorporates energy efficient systems and materials (in line with available energy performance standards or better) to reduce their energy consumption and CO ₂ emissions. As another example, projects can improve the energy efficiency of existing public buildings through retrofitting and renovation.
4	Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) in buildings	Energy Services Companies (ESCOs) provide energy as a service. In customizing delivery of energy to meet the customer's needs, this business model offers further incentives to invest in energy efficiency and to adopt new technologies such as heat pumps and micro CHP. In EPC, an ESCO guarantees the energy savings generated from the installation of low-carbon technology. The savings generated through the installation cover the cost of the project and energy savings after the contract ends accrue to the customer. This could be supported by innovative financial instruments.
4	Renewable energy production	Increase the production of energy from renewable energy sources. This could, for example, involve the construction of concentrated solar power plants or wind farms to replace energy production based on fossil fuels and/or to accommodate expected increases in future demand.
4	Renewable energy distribution	Upgrade existing distribution systems to facilitate the integration of energy from renewable sources into the main grid ('smart grids').
5	Green roofs	In providing an additional layer of insulation, a roof planted with vegetation reduces the need for heating and cooling in buildings.
6	Upgrading or construction of waste treatment facilities or closure of existing landfills	Waste treatment infrastructure built in compliance with EU law will reduce methane emissions from landfill sites. Processing sludge from wastewater treatment also decreases methane emissions.
6	Upgrading or construction of drinking water supply facilities	Construction or improvement of water supply systems incorporating low energy use technologies. The Barcelona Llobregat desalination plant, co-financed by ERDF, is an example. It integrates energy recovery technology and renewable energy like Photovoltaics (PV) technologies and wind to reduce its emissions from energy consumption.
7	Sustainable urban mobility	Promote and facilitate the use of sustainable modes of transport, which include transport demand management measures such as congestion-charging systems, parking management and low emission zones, complemented by improved public transport systems. Civitas MIMOSA (REGIOSTAR finalist 2011) supported innovative and sustainable mobility in the city of Funchal, Portugal.
8	Development of business incubators and investment support for self-employment and business creation in new areas for growth	Incubators and investment support could be targeted activities related to the low-carbon and climate resilient economy. This potential growth area also opens up opportunities for small businesses.
9	Contribution of social enterprises	Social enterprises could contribute to better waste management, recycling and collection and thus help reduce GHG emissions from landfills. ERDF can provide grants to enterprises unable to secure funding from mainstream sources.

TO	Examples/Selected Investment priorities	Potential mitigation action
10	Investments in education and training infrastructure	Knowledge platforms can disseminate best practise projects. Community engagement activities like the Alterenergy project in the Adriatic can raise awareness and build capacity on energy saving measures and renewable energy production.
11	Enhancing institutional capacity and efficiency in programme implementation	Strong institutional capacity is needed to ensure that mitigation impacts are maximised. This includes ensuring horizontal coordination vis-à-vis other funds in programme implementation.

b) Mitigation actions CF

TO	Examples/Selected Investment priorities	Potential mitigation action
4	Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy development of SMEs	Stimulate innovation and commercial uptake of ideas, e.g. in photovoltaic (PV) technology, tidal and wave energy or energy efficiency technology. This could take the form of regional knowledge transfer projects that improve access for businesses to the regional knowledge base and facilitate interaction between business and research. Business-to-business partnering between SMEs and larger industrial partners can accelerate low-carbon innovation and optimise supply chains. For example, the Technology and Innovation Centre at Strathclyde University encourages research between academia and business on new low-carbon technologies to demonstrate and commercialise new technology and improve the competitiveness of the renewable energy sector.
4	Supporting energy efficiency (EE) in public infrastructure	For example, the construction of new building infrastructure incorporating energy efficient systems and materials (in line with available energy performance standards) to reduce their energy consumption and CO2 emissions. Or projects may improve the energy efficiency of existing public buildings through retrofitting, such as the CF funded renovation scheme in Lithuania (Regiostar award 2011).
4	Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) in buildings	Energy Services Companies (ESCOs) provide energy as a service. In customizing delivery of energy to the customer's needs, this business model creates added incentives to invest in energy efficiency and to adopt new technologies such as heat pumps and micro CHP. In Energy Performance Contracting, an ESCO guarantees energy savings from the installation of a low-carbon technology. The savings generated through the installation can cover the cost of the project and energy savings after the contract ends accrue to the customer. This could be supported by innovative financial instruments.
4	Renewable energy production	Increase the production of energy from renewable energy sources, such as wind. This could, for example, involve the construction of concentrated solar power plants to replace energy production based on fossil fuels and/or to accommodate expected increases in future demand.
4	Renewable energy distribution	Upgrade existing distribution systems to facilitate the integration of energy from renewable sources into the main grid ('smart grids'). This could also take the form of developing smart distribution systems at low voltage levels. For example, small-scale renewable energy supplied via decentralised, low-voltage systems can reduce emissions from fossil fuel generation.
4	Promoting low-carbon strategies for urban areas	District heating and cooling networks can provide domestic and commercial buildings with low-carbon heating and cooling solutions. In addition, smart urban planning can reduce the need for transport – by increasing urban density through building apartments, schools, shopping and leisure facilities etc. close to each other so that car journeys can be avoided.
5	Green roofs for increased insulation	In providing an additional layer of insulation, a roof planted with vegetation reduces the need for heating and cooling in buildings.
6	Upgrading or construction of waste treatment facilities or closure of existing landfills	Waste treatment infrastructure built in compliance with EU law will reduce methane emissions from landfill sites. Processing sludge from wastewater treatment also decreases methane emissions. A CF funded project in Pääsküla, Estonia, uses biogas from a landfill for two heat and power systems. Annual biogas emissions fell by more than a factor of ten within six years, while heat and power both increased by more than a third. The total heat energy produced and sold is around 10 GWh/year.
6	Upgrading or construction of low-carbon drinking water supply facilities	Reducing emissions from the energy used to desalinate water can be achieved by integrating energy recovery systems and renewable energy supply into desalination plants.
6	Protecting and restoring biodiversity, including through green infrastructures	Green infrastructure like parks, woodlands or allotments can cool urban heat islands and allow for local food production, thus decreasing transportation of goods. Through the provision of footpaths and cycle routes they can also encourage low-carbon activities for people. They can thus reduce emissions while providing habitat for wildlife and recreational space for people.
7	Sustainable urban mobility	Promote and facilitate the use of sustainable modes of transport, which could include transport demand management measures such as congestion-charging systems, parking management and low emission zones, complemented by improved public transport systems. The latter is exemplified by Sofia's metro expansion scheme.
7	Developing comprehensive, high quality and interoperable railway systems	Comfortable, affordable, fast and available public transport is central to encourage car users to switch to low-carbon modes. The CF-funded project in Tallinn replaces old trains with more energy-efficient versions, resulting in 30 % less energy use and an expected rise of 21 % in additional commuters.
11	Enhancing institutional capacity and efficiency in programme implementation	Building capacity of national, regional and local administrations to identify and implement relevant mitigation options within the CF and to ensure that there is optimal synergy vis-à-vis other funds.

c) Mitigation actions ETC

TO	Examples/Selected Investment priorities	Potential mitigation action
1	Establishing and supporting mitigation-oriented research and innovation (R&I) business clusters	Stimulate innovation and the commercial uptake of ideas, e.g. in tidal and wave energy, in energy saving technologies and in resource-efficient production. One example is the Bioenergy Technology Transfer Network (BNT) which involves partners from research and business in seven Baltic countries. It works with applied R&I in biofuel production, refining and combustion and includes training of operators, users, decision makers and advisors.
2	Improving access to and the quality of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	Support for the introduction of ICT applications that contribute to meeting future societal challenges and opportunities, including reducing carbon emissions and increasing energy efficiency. This could be small or large-scale uptake of ICT-based innovations and applications. The DIGITAL Cities project establishes an open network for sharing knowledge and sustainable best practices across Europe, focussing on regions with low ICT adoption. The ITRACT project brings together technology experts in ICT, satellite, broadband and sensor technology to develop innovative transport and communication infrastructure for the North Sea Region.
3	Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs	Advice, tools and assistance to SMEs in promoting the dual goal of sustainability and competitiveness. These goals need not conflict: rather sustainability can contribute to competitiveness. The ECOMARK project, involving partners from five Mediterranean countries, is one example. It concentrates on developing innovative services (e.g. logistics, energy efficiency, financing) and green marketing strategies.
4	Promoting the production and distribution of renewable energy sources	This covers upgrading existing distribution systems to facilitate the integration of energy from renewable sources into the main grid; increasing the production of energy from renewable energy sources such as wind. Energy' regio is a strategic partnership of European regions which aims to provide municipal authorities with tools to promote concrete actions focussing on renewable energy technologies. E-Harbours brings together researchers from five harbour cities to make harbours more sustainable through renewable energy, smart grids and electric mobility.
4	Promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in SMEs	SMEs comprise the majority of businesses in the EU. Lowering greenhouse gas emissions from SMEs is thus an important contribution to reaching the EU mitigation targets. In the DESUR project, local and regional representatives from eight European countries cooperate to improve policies, instruments and methodologies to promote responsible innovation in SMEs. It brings together regions with a high degree of experience in such policies and regions who wish to advance the development of new policies.
4	Supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in public infrastructure and in the housing sector	Guidelines and tools for promoting energy efficiency, renewable energy and reduced energy consumption in urban areas and in buildings. Bringing together partners from countries with shared conditions and challenges enables a valuable exchange of experience and joint development of best practices and tools. One example of this approach is the Long Life project which involves partners from four Baltic countries. The project aims to introduce new innovative and higher standards when it comes to energy efficiency, sustainability, and resource-efficiency in buildings.
4	Promoting low-carbon strategies for urban areas	With the majority of Europeans already living in cities and an increasing number moving to urban areas, creating low-carbon futures for cities is crucial when tackling climate change. Eight pilot cities across Europe participate in the IMAGINE Low Energy Cities project to envision low-carbon future energy systems and develop implementation strategies through knowledge exchange and involvement of their citizens.
6	Protecting bio-diversity, soil protection and promoting ecosystem services	Carbon can be sequestered in soils and plant biomass, thus reducing emissions from agriculture and other sources while increasing ecosystems services such as water retention and preserving biodiversity. As part of the Interreg IVB North Sea Region, seven countries cooperate on the application of "Biochar", a substance able to store carbon, increase soil fertility and water retention and absorb pesticides.
6	Action to improve the urban environment	Actions to improve the urban environment can take a broader perspective which considers not only air pollution reduction, but also mitigation and adaptation issues. One example is the Brownfield Policy Improvement Task Force which encourages the development of potentially contaminated, previously used and abandoned land across 11 partner countries in Europe, with a partial focus on environmental and urban regeneration.
7	Developing environmental friendly and low-carbon transport systems and promoting sustainable urban mobility	Promote and facilitate the use of sustainable modes of transport which could include transport demand management measures such as congestion-charging systems, parking management and low emission zones, complemented by improved public transport systems. City and regional cooperation can contribute to improved decision-making and efficient implementation when it comes to developing low-carbon transport strategies. CycleCities seeks to make cycling a key component of urban transport systems. It develops a knowledge platform to disseminate good practice guides, data on cycling infrastructure and bike-sharing systems and ways to implement them. Several big and medium-sized cities in Europe are involved.
7	Developing comprehensive, high-quality and interoperable railway system	Railway systems provide a low-carbon alternative to road transport. The LO-PINOD project collaborates on new rail infrastructure in port hinterland areas and interconnectivity of ports using examples from partner countries. The CARE-North project develops low-carbon transport strategies for the North Sea Region and shares experiences from implementing pilot actions transnationally, such as modal shift measures incentivising car drivers to switch to trains.
11	Development and implementation of macro-regional and sea-basin strategies	Sea-basin and macro-regional strategies can establish joint understandings of challenges, opportunities, priorities and actions in mitigation in regions that share similar conditions. Under the umbrella of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, BSR InnoShip promotes transnational cooperation to reduce ship and port emissions and to make the Baltic Sea a model for clean shipping.

d) CLIMATE MAINSTREAMING ASSESSMENTS IN PAs

Partnership Agreements – assessment of the climate mainstreaming

Agreement part		Main areas for climate assessment	Reference ¹	Template ²
1	Strategic approach and arrangements for alignment with the Europe 2020 strategy and the Fund specific missions		CPR 14(a)	Section 1
1.1	Analysis of disparities, development needs and growth potentials with reference to the TOs and the territorial challenges	<p>The assessment will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs for climate change mitigation with regard to the national Europe 2020 targets Integration of any needs in the area of climate change deriving from the European Semester and CSR Alignment with the strategic guiding principles of the Common Strategic Framework (CSF) Integration of the needs identified in national or regional climate change strategies and action plans Analysis of potential risks deriving from exposure to climate change whether from gradual changes or more extreme weather events Consistency of needs analysis for climate change adaptation as against identified risks and their impacts Whether the needs for cross border climate action have been taken into account Coherence of funding priorities with the identified needs for climate action Visibility of support to the EU's commitment that climate action objectives will represent at least 20 % of EU spending in the period 2014-2020 Requirements across the programmes to ensure the promotion of the sustainable development principle with a view to climate change 	CPR 14(a)(i)	Section 1.1 1), cf. Section 1.4.
1.2	A summary of the ex-ante evaluations of the programmes or key findings of the ex-ante evaluations of the PA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess overall findings for the contribution of programmes to the climate change priorities and the Europe 2020 targets Assess the findings of ex-ante evaluations regarding the selection of funding priorities and thematic objectives for the ESI Funds with regard to the needs for climate action Assess summary of coordination of EU and national funding instruments for climate action potential Assess findings on coherence of financial allocations for supporting the climate objectives of the programmes and relating to the EU's commitment that climate action objectives will represent at least 20 % of EU spending in the period 2014-2020 	CPR 14(a)(ii)	Section 1.2
1.3	Selected thematic objectives and main expected results	<p>The assessment will have particular focus on thematic objectives 4 and 5, but will also assess the mainstreaming of climate action into the other thematic objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verify inclusion of TO 4 across the relevant ESI Funds Assess inclusion of TO 5 across the relevant ESI Funds Assess overall selection of TOs with regard to the identified climate action needs, the Europe 2020 climate targets and the CSR Verify that the main results sought by fund and TO include, where relevant, climate action performance Assess, where relevant, the outlined results for each TO with regard to the climate targets of Europe 2020 and CSR 	CPR 14(a)(iii)	Section 1.3
1.4	Indicative allocation of support by the Union	<p>The assessment will have a specific focus on the indicative allocations for climate change objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess indicative allocation of support by TO and by ESI Fund in relation to the climate action needs of the country and each of the funds. Verify that the support to reach climate objectives is appropriate with regards to the needs of the country and the EU's commitment that climate action objectives will represent at least 20 % of EU spending in the period 2014-2020. Cf. also Table section 1.1. above 	CPR 14(a)(iv) CPR 8	Section 1.4, cf. Section 1.1.

Agreement part		Main areas for climate assessment	Reference ¹	Template ²
1.5	The application of horizontal principles and policy objectives for the implementation of the ESI Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verify how the principle of sustainable development with regards to climate change mitigation and adaptation has been taken into account in the preparation of programmes Assess arrangements across programmes to ensure the promotion of the sustainable development principle with regards to climate change in programme implementation Assess any other horizontal policy measures and objectives foreseen to promote the shift to a low carbon and climate resilient economy 	CPR 14(a)(vi) CPR 8	Section 1.5
2	Arrangements for effective implementation		CPR 14(b) (d) (e)	Section 2
2.1	Arrangements that ensure coordination between the ESI Funds and other Union and national funding instruments and with the EIB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess any arrangements for ensuring coordination of ESIF with regards to climate action Verify whether identified areas for complementary financing with other EU and national funding sources, as well as other available funding (such as the EEA Financial Mechanism) include climate action Assess foreseen involvement of the EIB in co-financing projects involving important climate action Assess whether the contributions of national instruments are essential for meeting climate objectives 	CPR 14 (b)(i)	Section 2.1
2.2	Summary of the assessment of the fulfilment of applicable ex-ante conditionalities	<p>The assessment will cover the climate change relevant ex-ante conditionalities of TO 4 and 5 and will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen information provided for the ex-ante conditionalities to be fulfilled with regards to their climate aspects 	CPR 14 (d)(iii)	Section 2.3
2.3	Assessment of whether there is a need to reinforce the administrative capacity of the authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verify that the assessment covers needs in the area of climate action Assess any needs analysis across programmes for capacity strengthening in the field of climate action 	CPR 14 (e)(i)	Section 2.5
3	Integrated approach to territorial development		CPR 14(b)	Section 3
3.1	Description of the strategy for territorial development covering the use of the ESI Funds at regional and sub-regional levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verify that the integrated approach addresses climate related issues with important territorial effects Assess whether the approach adequately reflects the needs for integrated action and the synergies in such actions 	CPR 14 (b)(ii)	Section 3
3.2	Arrangements to ensure an integrated approach to using ESIF for the territorial development of specific sub-regional areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verify that the integrated approach addresses climate related issues with important territorial effects Assess whether the approach adequately reflects the needs for integrated action and the synergies in such actions Assess whether the approach to community-led development has taken into consideration climate-related issues and objectives Assess whether the selection of types of territories for Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) has considered climate issues Verify that the principles for selection of areas for sustainable urban development have given adequate attention to climate challenges If climate action is a priority area for cross-border cooperation then assess proposed approach If relevant, assess degree of complementary climate related action of ESI Funds in Integrated Territorial Investments, in sustainable urban development and in cross-border cooperation 	CPR 14 (a)(v) CPR 14 (b)(ii) CPR 28-31	Section 3.1

e) CLIMATE MAINSTREAMING ASSESSMENTS IN ERDF AND CF OPs

ERDF / CF Operational Programmes – assessment of the climate mainstreaming

	Agreement part	Main areas for climate assessment	Reference ¹	Template ²
1	Strategic approach		CPR 24.1	Section 1
1.1	Strategy for the OPs' contribution to the delivery of the Europe 2020 Strategy and for achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion	<p>Assess the proposed strategy regarding the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of relevant needs for climate change mitigation concerning the national Europe 2020 targets and CSR • Approach to deliver on the Europe 2020 targets related to climate change and on the related CSR • Expected climate change impacts on the region and sectors covered by the Programme • Vulnerability to climate change, whether in the form of a gradual change or more extreme weather events • National and/or regional needs regarding the adaptation to climate change • Approach to ensure climate resilience in support of the Europe 2020 strategy • Approach to ensure that that disaster resilience and risk prevention and management are promoted • Relevant national/regional climate change strategies and/or action plans and their objectives • Promotion of the principle of sustainable development in the area of climate change (CPR 8) • Consistency of proposed strategy in the area of climate change with the findings of the ex-ante evaluation • Consistency with climate change objectives and other climate related provisions of the Partnership Agreement 	CPR 87.2(a)(i) CPR 8 CPR 24.4	Section 1.1
1.2	Justification for the selection of TOs and corresponding investment priorities	<p>This part of the climate assessment will focus on the TOs and investment priorities that are of particular relevance to climate change. Furthermore, it will be assessed whether climate action has been adequately mainstreamed into the other programme areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess whether the selection of TOs and related investment priorities address the needs arising from Europe 2020 targets, the transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy, and relevant CSR • Assess overall whether the selection of TOs is consistent with the Programme needs in the area of climate change • Assess the mainstreaming of climate action into TOs and investment priorities which do not directly target climate action • Assess the selection and justifications for investment priorities addressing the needs for climate action • Verify that justifications take into account the relevant national or regional climate action plans and the findings of the ex-ante evaluations 	CPR 87.2(a)(ii) CPR 8	Section 1.1
1.3	Justification for the financial allocation	<p>The assessment will consider :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justification regarding the contribution to reach the Europe 2020 climate related targets and the CSR • Justification that allocation by TOs is consistent with the climate action programme needs • Any impact on allocation for climate action from availability of other public and private funding • Allocations to the climate related specific objectives of investment priorities, as appropriate • Consistency of allocation with ex-ante evaluation findings 	CPR 24.1	Section 1.2 Table 2

Agreement part		Main areas for climate assessment	Reference ¹	Template ²
2	For each priority axis and investment priority:	This part will assess the mainstreaming of climate action across the Programme and will further focus on the priority axis and investment priorities with climate action potential.	CPR 24.2 and CPR 24.3	Section 2
2.1	Assessment of priority axis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess whether the priority axis appropriately reflects the relevant policy targets and needs identified in terms of climate change If the priority axis covers more than one TO/fund/categories of regions, assess whether the explanation for increased impact and effectiveness of a thematically coherent integrated approach is duly justified in relation to climate change 	CPR 87.2 (b)	Section 2.A
2.2	Specific objectives corresponding to the investment priority and expected results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess whether the specific objectives mirror the climate action targets of Europe 2020 and the climate action potential of the TOs and the scope of the priority axis Also assess whether any objective may lead to a significant increase in GHG emissions Assess whether the expected results in terms of climate change targets seem reasonable in view of the specific objectives 	CPR 87.2(b)(i)	Section 2.A.1
2.3	Actions to be supported under the investment priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess action description in support of reaching the climate objectives of the investment priority Assess whether the actions proposed adequately incorporate their climate action potential Assess whether the description considers the impacts of actions on the climate Assess how the sustainable development principle concerning climate change is taken into account Assess any expected use of financial instruments in relation to climate action Assess descriptions of major projects intended to contribute to reaching climate objectives of the investment priority Assess descriptions of major projects to identify measures for reduction of GHG emissions and climate resilience 	CPR 87.2(b)(iii) CPR 8	Section 2.A.2 Section 2.A.2.1 Section 2.A.2.3 Section 2.A.2.4 Section 12.1 Table 27
2.4	Guiding principles for the selection of operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess promotion of climate change mitigation and adaptation in principles for project selection (CPR 8) Assess whether the guiding principles ensure that investments with significantly adverse climate impacts are not supported 	CPR 87(3)(i) CPR 8	Section 2.A.2.2 Section 11.1
3	Financing plan		CPR 24.2	Section 3
3.1	Indicative amount of support to be used for climate change objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verify that the support for the fulfilment of climate objectives is appropriate within the scope of the Programme and the target that climate related expenditure should correspond to at least 20 % of the EU budget in the period 2014-2020 	CPR 87.2(g) CPR 24.5	Section 3.2.B (Table 19)
4	Integrated approach to territorial development		CPR 24.1	Section 4
4.1	Description of the approach to territorial development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess whether the proposed approach adequately reflects climate action needs and the opportunities to benefit from integrated action in the area of climate change Assess the contribution of this approach to reaching the climate objectives of the Programme 	CPR 87.2(c)(ii)	Section 4
4.2	Support for sustainable urban development and the use of Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verify that arrangements for sustainable urban development and ITI consider climate challenges of urban areas 	CPR 87.2(c)(iii)	Section 4.2 Table 20
5	Implementation arrangements		CPR 87.2	Section 7
5.1	Involvement of relevant partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verify that relevant partners have been involved and consulted in the preparation of the climate change aspects of the Programme and that planned actions are described to ensure their involvement in implementation of programmes 	CPR 87.2 (e)(iii)	Section 7.2.
5.2	Applicable ex-ante conditionalities and their fulfilment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on the unfulfilled ex-ante conditionalities relating to TO 4 and 5. Screen information supplied for ex-ante conditionalities to be fulfilled with regard to their climate aspects 	CPR 24.1 CPR 87.2(e)(ii) CPR Annex IV	Section 9.1 Table 24 Section 9.2 Table 25 Table 26