

ASSETS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE COHESION POLICY IN AN ENLARGED UNION

Marjorie JOUEN

Groupeement d'études et de recherches « Notre Europe »

www.notre-europe.asso.fr

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EU-27 WILL HAVE TO FACE 4 MAIN CHALLENGES + 1

- ▶ *Increased regional disparities (social, economic, technological gaps)*
- ▶ *New territorial inequalities*
- ▶ *Persistent or worsening social exclusion*
- ▶ *Public' s lack of involvement in the European project*
- + *Critical capacity to generate growth, employment, competitiveness in accordance to a sustainable development model*

ASSETS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE COHESION POLICY

THE ASSETS OF THE COHESION POLICY TO MEET THESE CHALLENGES

▶ *The structural funds are not just financial grants, they allow the local productive fabrics to be strengthened*

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WHY?

► *The fundamental principals of the Structural Funds :*

- ♦ *Concentration*
- ♦ *Integration of the Funds*
- ♦ *Area-based (regional or territorial) approach*
- ♦ *Additionality*
- ♦ *Multi-annual programming*
- ♦ *Partnership*

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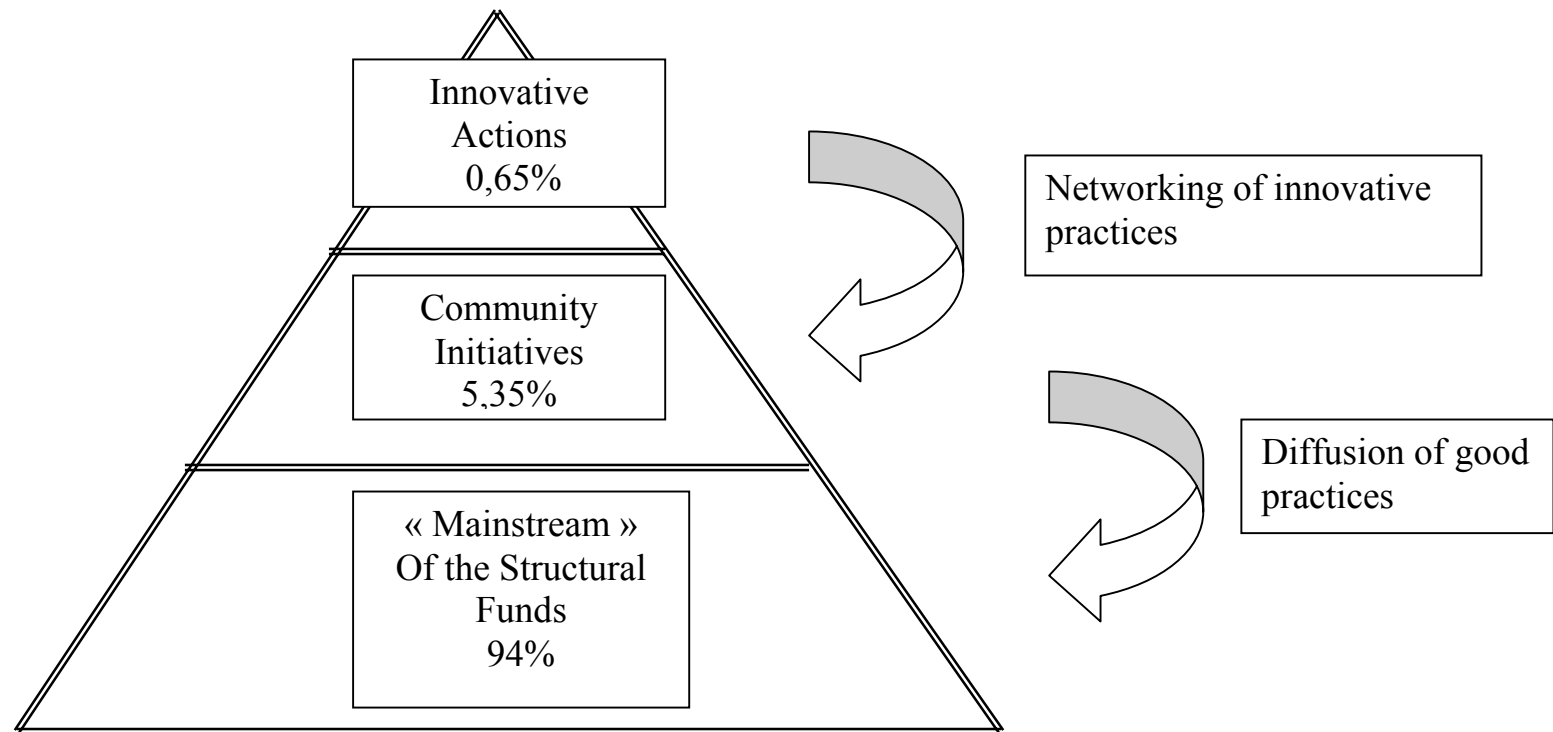
► *The capacity to manage diversity:*

- ♦ *Networking Europe-wide*
- ♦ *Bench-marking*
- ♦ *Exchange of good practices*

► *The promotion of the innovation*

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→ The inter-play between the instruments of the cohesion policy



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► *The contribution to the Lisbon and Gothenburg objectives*

- ♦ *similar aims*
- ♦ *objective 1 programmes \neq objective 2 programmes*
- ♦ *different situations depending on regional and national institutional organisation*
- ♦ *financial contribution to increasing R&D, to improving business environment and to preventing pollution*

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OVERALL ASSESSMENT

- ▶ *The development of new ways of governance at regional – local level as well as at EU level*
- ▶ *The evidence of different sorts of EU added-value*

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THE WEAKNESSES OF THE COHESION POLICY

► *The current debate on the efficiency and the effectiveness of the cohesion policy*

- ♦ *global convergence v. local divergence*
- ♦ *net contributions to the EU budget v. national solidarity*

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- ▶ *The preparation for the future (financial instruments and methods)*
 - ♦ *specific needs of the New members States*
 - ♦ *territorial cohesion*
 - ♦ *future accessions*

- ▶ *The global challenges ahead*
 - ♦ *convergence v. excellence*

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CONCLUSION

Is the current Commission' s proposal a good answer to the current and future needs?

Will the new cohesion policy in the new Financial perspectives make a valuable contribution to meet the challenges?

Some suggestions