



# Climate-proofing the major projects co-financed by the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) 2014-2020

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# ESIF and major projects



- **European Structural and Investment Funds:**
  - Over 43% of the Multiannual Financial Framework; 5 funds:
    - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
    - Cohesion Fund (CF)
    - European Social Fund (ESF)
    - European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)
    - European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)
- **"Major projects** represent a substantial share of Union spending and are frequently of strategic importance with respect to the achievement of the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth."
  - total eligible cost exceeds EUR 50 000 000 (or EUR 75 000 000 in case of key network infrastructures)
  - Union support from CF and ERDF
- First programming period when climate considerations are included in the preparation and implementation of major projects

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# Legal requirements (1)



- **Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013** ("Common Provisions Regulation")
  - Art. 101 - Information necessary for the approval of a major project:
    - (f) an analysis of the environmental impact, taking into account climate change adaptation and mitigation needs, and disaster resilience
  
- **Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/207**
  - Annex II - Format for submission of the information on major projects
    - D.2. – Option analysis
    - D.3. – Feasibility of the option selected
    - E.2. – Economic analysis
    - E.3. – Risk assessment and sensitivity analysis
    - F.1. – Consistency of the project with the environmental policy
    - F.8. – Climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster resilience

## Legal requirements (2)



- Annex III - Methodology for carrying out the cost-benefit analysis

Elements of the CBA:

- 2.1.4. Feasibility of the project with demand and option analysis
  - Feasibility analysis identifies the potential constraints and related solutions with respect to [...] climate change mitigation and adaptation;
  - Option analysis - options should be compared against different criteria, including [...] climate change aspects.
- 2.3.3. Climate change mitigation and adaptation in the economic analysis
- 2.4. Risk assessment

## Legal requirements (3)



- **Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 480/2014 - Quality review criteria for the information requirements of Article 101(f) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013**

Criterion 6.1:

The project needs to prove "demonstrated contribution to the objectives of environmental and climate change policies, in particular targets linked to the Europe 2020 strategy and evidence of account being taken of the risks related to climate change, adaptation and mitigation needs, disaster resilience and of appropriate measures implemented or foreseen to ensure resilience of the project to climate change variability."

⇒ Three main components:

- Contribution to policy objectives;
- Screening of climate vulnerabilities, climate risks, mitigation aspects;
- Adaptation options.

⇒ Sections F.8.1, F.8.2 and F.8.3 of the Format for submission

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## Legal requirements (4)

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### Guidance



- **Directive 2014/52/EU - Revision of the EIA Directive**
  - Includes mitigation and adaptation aspects
  - Information on the project for the EIA will include vulnerability to climate change, and its impact on the climate

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- Guide to Cost-benefit Analysis of Investment Projects – 2014 edition  
[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/cba\\_guide.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/cba_guide.pdf)
- Guidance on integrating climate change and biodiversity into EIA  
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/pdf/EIA%20Guidance.pdf>
- Guidelines for project managers on climate-proofing investment projects  
[http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/adaptation/what/docs/non\\_paper\\_guidelines\\_project\\_managers\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/adaptation/what/docs/non_paper_guidelines_project_managers_en.pdf)

## Final remarks



- Climate policies are prominent and receive important funding
- Resilience to climate change, as well as the mitigation-related aspects – new features of the major projects
- Requirements apply to all major projects, regardless the sector
- The 'climate-proofing cycle' needs to be an integral part of the overall project development cycle; it is not an add-on at the final. It needs to be properly documented throughout the application form and supporting documents
- Major projects bring a solid contribution to achieving policy goals -> it is important to capture the adaptation and mitigation components (from a financial point of view). Reporting against multiple "intervention fields" is possible  
(See Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 215/2014)

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Thank you for your attention!



Q & A

Directorate-General for Climate Action ("DG CLIMA")

<http://ec.europa.eu/clima>

Fact sheets on climate mainstreaming:

[http://ec.europa.eu/clima/publications/index\\_en.htm#Mainstreaming](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/publications/index_en.htm#Mainstreaming)

EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change:

[http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/adaptation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/adaptation/index_en.htm)

European Climate Adaptation Platform:

<http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/>

