

## A PURPLE Lobby Group paper on EU Cohesion Policy beyond 2020

---

The Peri-urban Regions Platform Europe (PURPLE) has campaigned since 2004 for greater recognition of the value and true nature of peri-urban areas of Europe. It has consistently fought for understanding and appreciation of the unique contribution such areas make and their potential to do more. Territorial cohesion – its policies and programmes – is a key concern for this transnational network representing the interests and ambitions of those parts of Europe where “urban” and “rural” co-exist.

It follows that PURPLE is highly motivated to be involved in the debate about Cohesion Policy and its related programming instruments post 2020. This paper sets out core elements of what PURPLE considers to be essential principles for, and features of, a revised Cohesion Policy which takes due account of peri-urban Europe today.



# key messages

- PURPLE wants to see the central importance of Cohesion Policy reflected in the broader EU budget settlement for the next financial period. To that end it calls for the proportions of the next budget allocated to both Cohesion Policy and to Rural Development to be preserved at least at the current levels
- PURPLE calls for an improved EU Cohesion Policy with instruments open to all European regions, to support both endogenous growth and trans-regional co-operation
- It insists on there being an explicit and stronger territorial dimension to any future version of EU Cohesion Policy
- It calls for a clear place-based approach to Cohesion Policy development and implementation – an approach which recognises differences and similarities in territorial conditions in different places
- Territorial Impact Assessments should form an important part of future arrangements
- PURPLE emphasises the value and importance of European Territorial Co-operation, calls for its budget and scope to be increased in the next programming period, and for its focus to be overtly redirected to territorial matters
- Whilst it is important to bear in mind differences in purpose and focus between, for example, ESF and ERDF, there should be greater harmonisation and complementarity between the priorities, permitted activities, rules and procedures of the different programmes designed to support Cohesion Policy
- PURPLE calls for explicit recognition of the contribution and potential of, and challenges faced by, peri-urban areas where what we archetypically think of as places with urban and rural characteristics coincide
- The terms “urban”, and “rural” should be clearly explained and justified when used in this debate – false dichotomies between the two should be avoided, and the phrase “peri-urban” should also be part of the debate’s language
- PURPLE asks that some sort of equal weighting be given to “urban” and “rural” concerns and issues - an approach based on recognition of the equal importance of territories of different types and degrees of complexity

