

# Research for REGI, CONT and BUDG Committees - Cohesion Policy Calendar (2021-2027 and 2014-2020 Programming Periods) February 2025 update

The implementation timetable for cohesion policy is defined largely by its legislative framework. In order to be able to plan parliamentary work and exercise systematic scrutiny of policy implementation and of the Commission's work, it is essential to have an overview of the timing of different steps in policy implementation in the coming years. This type of briefing was first published (and subsequently updated) in 2014 covering the 2014-2020 programming period. This version includes the policy actions of the 2021-27 period, while still indicating the last steps of the 2014-20 period. It includes a detailed (but non-exhaustive) timetable of policy actions in 2025, together with an overview of major actions for the remainder of the programming period, from 2026. Given its contribution to cohesion in the European Union, policy actions under the Recovery and Resilience Facility are now included in the calendar. **Policy actions related to budgetary and budgetary control aspects are coloured green (for the year 2025).**

(For ease of reading, please refer to the List of abbreviations on page 10.)

## Annual Overview

2025	Policy Actions	Sources
January	<b>ECA Special Report on Urban pollution in the EU - 15 January</b>	<b>ECA planning</b>
	Meeting of Directors-General responsible for cohesion policy - 15-16 January	PL PRES planning
	Conference on The European way of growth: A growth policy for a secure, resilient and globally competitive European Union - 30-31 January	PL PRES planning
February	<b>ECA Special Report on Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe (CARE) - 12 February</b>	<b>ECA planning</b>
	Senior Expert Level Conference on the MFF post-2027 - 17 February	PL PRES planning
	Expert Seminar on the Future of Cohesion and Territorial Approaches in the Evolving European Union. In Search of a New Paradigm! - 27-28 February	PL PRES planning
March	<b>ECA Special Report on EU actions tackling sea pollution by ships - 5 March</b>	<b>ECA planning</b>
	National Territorial Cohesion Contact Points Meeting (NTCCP) - 12 March	PL PRES planning
	Urban Development Group (UDG) Meeting - 13 March	PL PRES planning
	Deadline for the Commission to provide the European Parliament and the Council with an evaluation of REACT-EU - 31 March	REACT-EU Art. 2



2025	Policy Actions	Sources
	<p>Deadline for MS to submit to the Commission an amended Partnership Agreement, taking into account the outcome of the mid-term review - <b>31 March</b></p> <p>Deadline for MS to submit an assessment for each programme on the outcome of the mid-term review, including a proposal for the definitive allocation of the flexibility amount - <b>31 March</b></p> <p>Cut-off date for MS to submit programme amendment to receive additional (STEP) pre-financing - <b>31 March</b></p> <p><b>ECA Special Report on MS RRF control systems - unspecified date in March</b></p>	<p>CPR21-27 Art. 13(1)</p> <p>CPR21-27 Art. 18(2)</p> <p>ERDF+CF Art. 1a (STEP) and ESF+ Art. 12a(2) (STEP)</p> <p><b>ECA planning</b></p>
April	<p>Meeting of Directors-General responsible for Territorial Cohesion - <b>24 April</b></p> <p>Directors General Meeting for Urban Matters - <b>24-25 April</b></p>	<p>PL PRES planning</p>
May	<p>Ministerial Meeting of the OECD Regional Development Policy Committee - <b>19-20 May</b></p> <p>Informal meeting of ministers responsible for Cohesion Policy, Territorial Cohesion and Urban Matters - <b>20-21 May</b></p>	<p>PL PRES planning</p>
June	<p>URBACT Monitoring Committee - <b>12-13 June</b></p> <p>Final deadline for natural disaster related programme amendment to be submitted (in case the disaster occurred before 24 December 2024) - <b>25 June</b></p> <p>Deadline for the Commission to review the implementation of the JTF - <b>30 June</b></p> <p>Deadline for Managing Authorities to report the first time to the Commission the results of a structured survey of the end recipients regarding the support received from the ESF+ and also focusing on their living conditions and the nature of their material deprivation, carried out during the previous year - <b>30 June</b></p>	<p>PL PRES planning</p> <p>ESF + Art. 12b(2) ERDF+CF Art. 3. (1b) (RESTORE)</p> <p>JTF Art. 14</p> <p>ESF+ Art. 23(3)</p>
July	<p>Commission to present a proposal for a new multiannual financial framework (2028-2034) - <b>before 1 July 2025 (unspecified date in the 3rd quarter of 2025)</b></p> <p><b>Deadline for the submission of the final application for an interim payment for the final accounting year - 31 July</b></p>	<p>MFF Art. 21 (EC planning)</p> <p>CPR14-20 Art. 135 (6) (STEP)</p>
October	<p>The European Week of Regions and Cities - <b>13-16 October</b></p>	<p>CoR</p>
December	<p>Deadline for Commission to prepare a synthesis report on the basis of 2014-20 ex-post evaluations - <b>31 December</b></p> <p>Deadline for Commission to carry out a review and prepare a report, accompanied where necessary accompanied by a legislative proposal of the application of Article 19 of CPR21-27 - <b>31 December</b></p> <p>Deadline for the managing authority to select operations supported by the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund, that are exceptions to exclusion from the scope of support - <b>31 December</b></p> <p>Deadline for the Commission to provide the European Parliament and the Council with an interim evaluation report on the implementation of the STEP - <b>31 December</b></p>	<p>CPR14-20 Art. 57(4)</p> <p>CPR21-27 Art. 19(15)</p> <p>ERDF+CF Art. 7(4)</p> <p>STEP Art. 8(1)</p>

2025	Policy Actions	Sources
	End of period for occurrence of natural disasters for which (1) ESF+ can provide support to alleviate the negative socio-economic consequences (2) ERDF can support investments aimed at reconstruction - <b>31 December</b>	ESF + Art. 12b(1) ERDF+CF Art. 3(1)(b)(x) (RESTORE)
Unspecified	<p>Public Sector Loan Facility (JTF) – interim evaluation - <b>unspecified date in the second quarter of 2025</b></p> <p><b>Ex-post evaluation of European Regional Development Fund &amp; Cohesion Fund 2014-2020 - - 31 December 2024 (unspecified date in the second quarter of 2025)</b></p> <p><b>Ex post evaluation of the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) 2014-2020 - - 31 December 2024 (unspecified date in the second quarter of 2025)</b></p> <p><b>Mid-term evaluation of the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the Just Transition Fund 2021-2027- 31 December 2024 (unspecified date in the second quarter of 2025)</b></p> <p><b>Mid-term evaluation of the European Social Fund Plus 2021-2027 - 31 December 2024 (unspecified date in the second quarter of 2025)</b></p> <p><b>Ex post evaluation of European Social Fund and Youth Employment Initiative 2014-2020- - 31 December 2024 (unspecified date in the third quarter of 2025)</b></p> <p><b>ECA to publish special reports on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Microchip industry</li> <li>• EU funding to NGOs</li> <li>• RRF digital transition</li> <li>• RRF labour market reforms</li> <li>• RRF business environment reforms</li> <li>• Forest wildfires</li> </ul> <p><b>- unspecified dates in the 2nd quarter of 2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial corrections in Cohesion policy funds</li> <li>• Municipal waste management</li> <li>• Budget flexibility in times of crisis</li> <li>• Audit of cooperation between EU bodies fighting fraud</li> </ul> <p><b>- unspecified dates in the 3rd quarter of 2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RRF – RePowerEU</li> <li>• Financial instruments in Cohesion policy</li> <li>• EU support for increasing sustainable commuter mobility around large metropolitan areas</li> <li>• RRF– MSs control systems PIF</li> </ul> <p><b>- unspecified dates in the 4th quarter of 2025</b></p> <p><b>ECA to publish reviews on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RRF – review</li> <li>• Review report on the Commission’s reflection paper on EU Finances</li> </ul> <p><b>- unspecified dates in the 2nd quarter of 2025</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future of cohesion: drawing lessons from the past</li> <li>• Smart specialization strategies</li> </ul> <p><b>- unspecified dates in the 3rd quarter of 2025</b></p> <p><b>Review report on the Commission’s MFF proposal package - unspecified date in the 4th quarter of 2025</b></p>	<p>EC planning</p> <p>CPR14-20 Art. 57(2) (EC planning)</p> <p>CPR14-20 Art. 57(2) (EC planning)</p> <p>CPR21-27 Art. 45(1) (EC planning)</p> <p>CPR21-27 Art. 45(1) (EC planning)</p> <p>CPR14-20 Art. 57(2) (EC planning)</p> <p>ECA planning</p> <p>ECA planning</p> <p>ECA planning</p>

**CPR14-20:**

Commission to provide summary of progress on financial instruments and send it to the European Parliament and Council - 30 November / 31 December (each year from 2016, within 6 months of deadline for submission of annual implementation reports, policy action ends in 2025) (Art. 46(4))

Commission to transmit summary report based on annual implementation reports and available evaluations to the European Parliament, Council, EESC, CoR - each year from 2016 (policy action ends in 2025) (Art. 53(1))

**CPR21-27:**

MS to send to the Commission information on the amounts that can be deducted from the amount concerned by decommitment, for the amount to be declared by 31 December of the preceding year - 31 January (Art. 106(2))

Deadlines for MS or the managing authority to electronically transmit to the Commission cumulative data for each programme - 31 January, 30 April, 31 July, 30 September and 30 November (Art. 42(1) and Interreg21-27 Art. 32(1))

Biannual deadlines for MS or managing authorities to provide forecasts of the amount for payment applications to be submitted for the current and subsequent calendar year - 31 January and 31 July (Art. 69(10))

MS to submit to the Commission the assurance package (that covers the preceding accounting year) for each accounting year for which payment applications have been submitted - 15 February (Art. 98(1))

Deadline of for the Commission to satisfy itself that the accounts are complete, accurate and true - 31 May (of the year following the end of the accounting year unless Article 102 of CPR21-27 applies) (Art. 99)

MS to submit to the Commission an amended financing plan reflecting, for the calendar year concerned, the reduced amount of support, (decommitment procedure) - 30 June (Art. 107(3))

Deadline for the pre-financing for each Fund to be paid in yearly instalments - 1 July (2021-2026) (Art. 90 (2))

Deadline for the Commission to amend decision approving the programme, (decommitment procedure) - 31 October (Art. 107(4))

Commission to consult organisations which represent partners at Union level on the implementation of programmes, and to report to the European Parliament and Council on the outcome - *At least once a year* (Art. 8(5))

Monitoring committee to meet - *At least once a year* (Art. 38(3) and Interreg21-27 Art. 28(3))

Commission and the audit authorities to meet to examine the audit strategy, the annual control report and the audit opinion, to coordinate their audit plans and methods, and to exchange views on the improvement of management and control systems - *At least once a year* (Art. 77(6))

Review meetings to be organised between the Commission and each MS to examine the performance of each programme - *Once a year* (Art. 41(1))

Audit authority to draw up and submit to the Commission an annual audit opinion and an annual control report - *unspecified date* (Art. 77(3))

**JTF** - Deadline for budgetary commitments for the preceding year which relate to non-programmed allocations to be decommitted in their entirety in the following year in the absence of the MS' commitment to implement the objective of achieving a climate-neutral Union by 2050 - 31 December of any given year starting from 2022 (Art. 7(4))

**ERDF+CF** - The Commission to submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council on developments in connection with the European Urban Initiative - *every two years starting in 2023 (date of publication is unspecified)* (Art. 12(2))

**Interreg21-27:**

Interreg audit authority to draw up and submit to the Commission, an annual audit opinion and an annual control report - 15 February following the end of the accounting year (Art. 48(5) and (6))

Deadline for Commission to pay a pre-financing based on the total support from each Interreg fund, (policy action ends in 2026) - 1 July (Art. 51(2))

Audit authorities of the Interreg programmes concerned of the common sample selected to carry out the audits of operations - 1 September following the end of each accounting year (Art. 49(4))

Annual

**RRF:**

MS to submit to the Commission a request for payment of the financial contribution (of the loan) - twice a year, ending in 2026 (RRF Art. 24(2))

The competent committee of the European Parliament to invite the Commission to discuss RRF under the recovery and resilience dialogue process - every two months (RRF Art. 26(1))

MS to report in the context of the European Semester on the progress made in the achievement of the recovery and resilience plan - twice a year (RRF Art. 27.)

Commission to update the Recovery and resilience Scoreboard - twice a year (RRF Art. 30(4))

Commission to provide an annual report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the RRF - annually (RRF Art. 31(1))

MS to update data on the public portal created for this purpose on 100 final recipients receiving the highest amount of funding under the Facility - twice a year (RRF Article 25a(1) - REPowerEU)

**STEP:**

Commission to submit an annual report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the STEP - annually (STEP Art. 7(3))

## Multiannual Overview 2026-2031

	2026	2028	2029
<b>February</b>	<p><b>CPR14-20 Art. 138 (STEP)</b> Final year for MS to submit documents on 2014-20 accounts, management declaration, annual summary, audit opinion and control report - <a href="#">15 February</a></p>		
<b>June</b>		<p><b>ESF+ Art. 23(3)</b> Deadline for Managing Authorities to report the second time to the Commission the results of a structured survey of the end recipients regarding the support received from the ESF+ and also focusing on their living conditions and the nature of their material deprivation, carried out during the previous year - <a href="#">30 June</a></p> <p><b>BAR Art. 17 (3)</b> Deadline for the Commission to submit to the European Parliament, to the Council, to the European Economic and Social Committee and to the Committee of the Regions a report on the implementation of the BAR - <a href="#">30 June (deadline set for the Commission to carry out an evaluation to examine the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and Union added value of the BAR is 30 June 2027)</a>.</p>	<p><b>CPR21-27 Art. 44(2) and Interreg21-27 Art. 35(2)</b> Deadline for MS to carry out an evaluation for each programme to assess its impact - <a href="#">30 June</a></p>
<b>August</b>	<p><b>RRF Art. 18(4)</b> Deadline for investments under RRF to be completed - <a href="#">31 August</a></p>		

	2026	2028	2029
December	<p><b>CPR21-27:</b></p> <p><b>Art. 18(6)</b> Deadline for Commission to prepare a report about the outcome of the mid-term review and submit it to the European Parliament and to the Council - <a href="#">31 December</a></p> <p><b>Art. 19(2)</b> End of period when Commission may request a MS to review and propose amendments of relevant programmes, where this is necessary to support the implementation of relevant Council Recommendations - <a href="#">31 December</a></p> <p><b>RRF Art. 24(1)</b> Cut-off date for payments of financial contributions and, where applicable, of the loan to the MS under RRF - <a href="#">31 December</a></p>	<p><b>RRF Art. 32(1)</b> Commission to provide the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions with an independent ex post evaluation report of the RRF - <a href="#">31 December</a></p>	<p><b>CPR21-27:</b></p> <p><b>Art. 16 (1)(c)</b> Deadline to achieve targets for output and result indicators - <a href="#">1 December</a></p> <p><b>Art. 63(2)</b> Cut-off date for (1) expenditure to be eligible for a contribution from the Funds if it has been incurred by a beneficiary or the private partner of a PPP operation and paid in implementing operations and for (2) actions to be carried out that constitute the basis for reimbursement of costs - <a href="#">31 December</a></p> <p><b>Art. 91(5)</b> Final deadline for advances paid to the beneficiary, in the case of State aid, to be covered by expenditure paid by beneficiaries in implementing the operation and supported by receipted invoices or accounting documents of equivalent probative value - <a href="#">31 December</a></p> <p><b>Art. 105(2)</b> Cut off date for the part of commitments still open to be decommitted if the assurance package and the final performance report for programmes supported by the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund, the JTF and the EMFAF have not been submitted to the Commission by the time limit set out in Article 43(1) of CPR21-27 - <a href="#">31 December</a></p>

	2026	2028	2029
<b>Unspecified</b>	<p>ECA to publish special reports on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people not in employment, education nor training</li> <li>• RRF public administration</li> <li>• Absorption capacity of cohesion policy funds</li> <li>• Anti-fraud strategy</li> <li>• RRF-funded investments in energy efficiency</li> <li>• Risk based management verifications</li> <li>• RRF transparency and traceability</li> <li>• RRF funding for reforms and multi-country projects</li> </ul> <p>- unspecified dates in 2026</p> <p><b>EC planning</b></p> <p>JASPERS midterm evaluation - EU technical assistance for European regions - unspecified date in the first quarter of 2026</p>		



	2030	2031
January	<p><b>CPR21-27 Art. 42(1) and Interreg21-27 Art. 32(1)</b> Deadline for last transmission of data, electronically by MS (and by Interreg managing authority) to Commission - <a href="#">31 January</a></p>	
February		<p><b>CPR21-27 Art. 43(1) and Interreg21-27 Art. 33(1)</b> Deadline for managing authorities to submit final performance report of programmes supported by the ERDF, the ESF+, the Cohesion Fund, the JTF and the EMFAF to the Commission - <a href="#">15 February</a></p>
December	<p><b>CPR21-27 Art. 57(3)</b> Deadline for MS to reuse resources paid back by the beneficiary of grants under conditions - <a href="#">31 December</a></p>	<p><b>CPR21-27 Art. 45(2)</b> Deadline for Commission to carry out a retrospective evaluation to examine the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and Union added value of each Fund - <a href="#">31 December</a></p> <p><b>ESF+ Art. 34(3)</b> Deadline for the Commission to carry out a final evaluation of the EaSI strand - <a href="#">31 December</a></p> <p><b>STEP Art. 8(4)</b> Final deadline for the Commission to provide the European Parliament and the Council with a final evaluation report on the implementation of the STEP - <a href="#">31 December</a></p>

## List of Abbreviations

<b>BAR</b>	Brexit Adjustment Reserve, <a href="#">Regulation (EU) 2021/1755</a>
<b>CoR</b>	<a href="#">European Committee of the Regions</a>
<b>CPR14-20</b>	<a href="#">Common Provisions Regulation</a> covering the 2014-20 period
<b>CPR21-27</b>	<a href="#">Common Provisions Regulation</a> covering the 2021-27 period
<b>ECA</b>	European Court of Auditors
<b>ECA planning</b>	Information available in the <a href="#">Indicative Timetable of Publication of Reports from January 2025 to December 2025</a> and in the <a href="#">2025+ Work Programme</a>
<b>EC planning</b>	Information available on the <a href="#">European Commission at Work</a> , <a href="#">Better Regulation</a> , <a href="#">Regional policy - Inforegio</a> , <a href="#">Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion</a> , <a href="#">Commission Work Programme 2025</a> , webpages or through (formal or informal) contacts with Commission services
<b>ERDF</b>	European Regional Development Fund
<b>ERDF + CF</b>	<a href="#">Regulation (EU) 2021/1058</a> on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund
<b>ESF +</b>	<a href="#">Regulation (EU) 2021/1057</a> establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)
<b>ETC</b>	European Territorial Cooperation goal ( <a href="#">Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013</a> ) covering the 2014-20 period
<b>FAST CARE</b>	<a href="#">Amending Regulation (EU) 2022/2039</a> as regards additional flexibility to address the consequences of the military aggression of the Russian Federation FAST (Flexible Assistance for Territories) – CARE
<b>Interreg21-27</b>	<a href="#">Regulation (EU) 2021/1059</a> on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the ERDF and external financing instruments
<b>JTF</b>	Just Transition Fund ( <a href="#">Regulation (EU) 2021/1056</a> )
<b>MS</b>	Member State(s)
<b>MFF</b>	<a href="#">Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2093</a> of 17 December 2020 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027
<b>PL PRES planning</b>	Information available on the website of <a href="#">The Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union</a>
<b>REACT-EU</b>	<a href="#">Regulation (EU) 2020/2221</a> , amending CPR14-20 in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and for preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy
<b>REPowerEU</b>	<a href="#">Amending Regulation (EU) 2023/435</a> as regards REPowerEU chapters in recovery and resilience plans
<b>RESTORE</b>	<a href="#">Regulation (EU) 2024/3236</a> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2024 amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1057 and (EU) 2021/1058 as regards Regional Emergency Support to Reconstruction (RESTORE)
<b>RRF</b>	<a href="#">Regulation (EU) 2021/241</a> establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility
<b>STEP</b>	<a href="#">Regulation (EU) 2024/795</a> establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP), and amending Directive 2003/87/EC and Regulations (EU) 2021/1058, (EU) 2021/1056, (EU) 2021/1057, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) 2021/1060, (EU) 2021/523, (EU) 2021/695, (EU) 2021/697 and (EU) 2021/241

All REGI, CONT and BUDG publications:  
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/supporting-analyses>

## Further information

This briefing is available in summary, with option to download the full text, at:  
<https://bit.ly/4hyEDBB>

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Research manager: Diána HAASE      Editorial assistant: Adrienn BORKA

Contact: [Poldep-cohesion@ep.europa.eu](mailto:Poldep-cohesion@ep.europa.eu); [DGBUDG-BSU@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:DGBUDG-BSU@europarl.europa.eu)

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