Evidence-based Cohesion Policy

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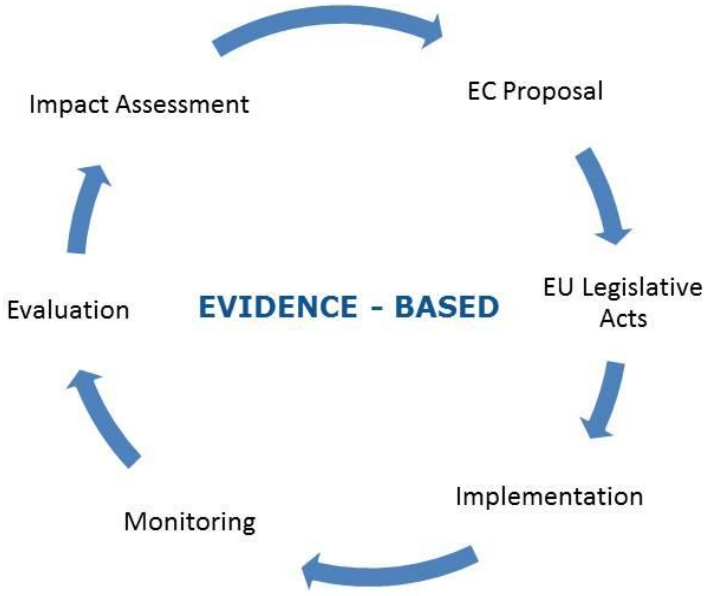
Cohesion Policy

EU policies are evidence based

Ex-ante:

New or reviewed initiatives

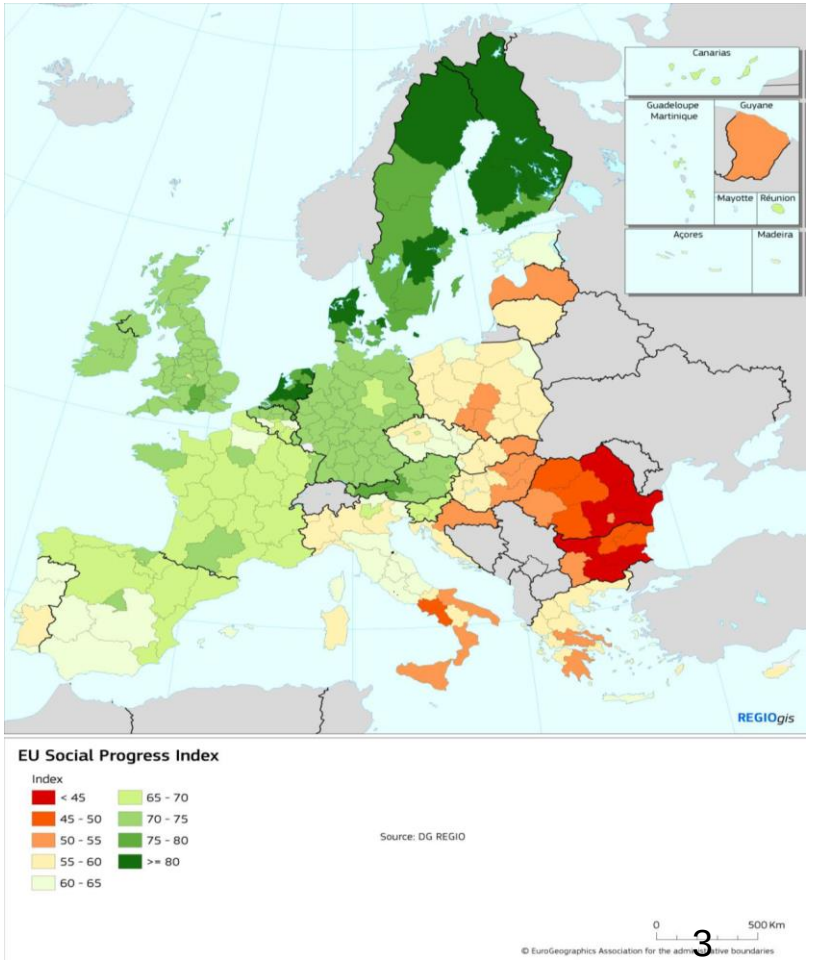


Ex-post:

Implemented initiatives

And Cohesion Policy is no exception in this respect

- ✓ **European Regional Development Fund, Cohesion Fund**
- ✓ **24% of the EU Budget**
- ✓ **318 programmes for 2014-2020**
- ✓ **Focus on gathering evidence:**
  - ***Monitoring and Evaluation***
  - ***Impact Assessment and Economic analysis***



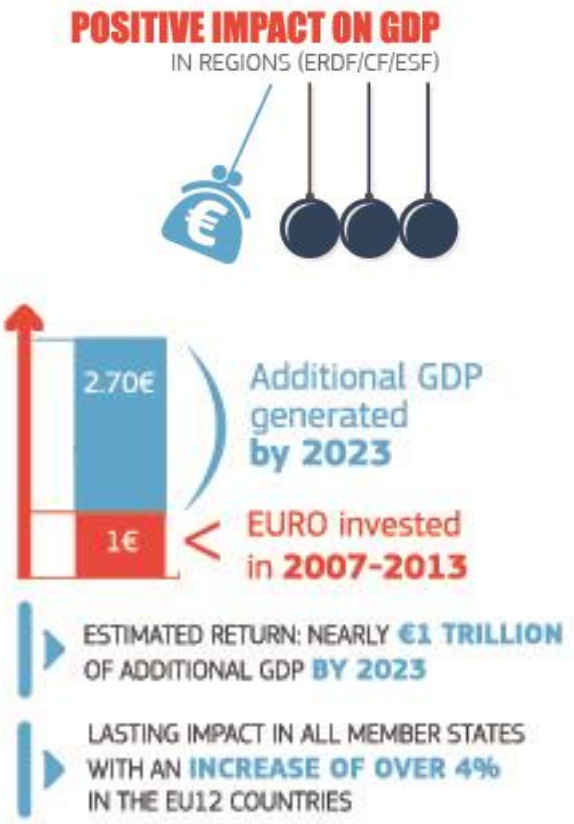
Ex-post evaluation of ERDF and Cohesion Fund 2007-2013

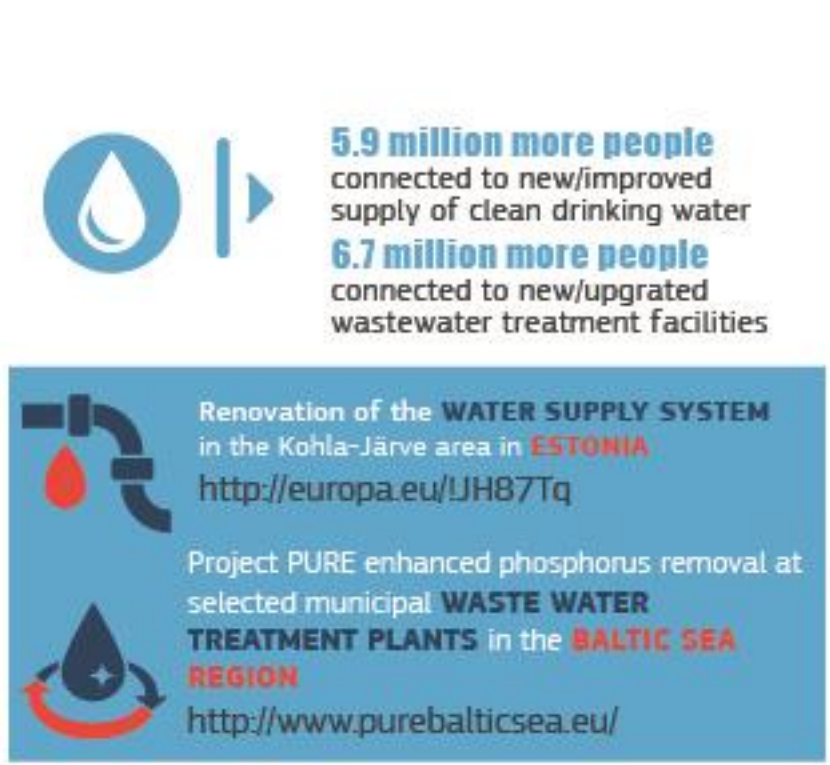
- 14 work packages, independent experts
- 63 programme, 20 project case studies
- Interviewed:
  - 3 000 beneficiaries;
  - 1 000 Managing authority employees;
  - 530 stakeholders participating in 10 seminars to discuss the results
- Evaluation methods: counterfactual analyses, contribution analyses, general-equilibrium simulation models methods

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/evaluations/ec/2007-2013/

Ex-post evaluation of ERDF and Cohesion Fund 2007-2013

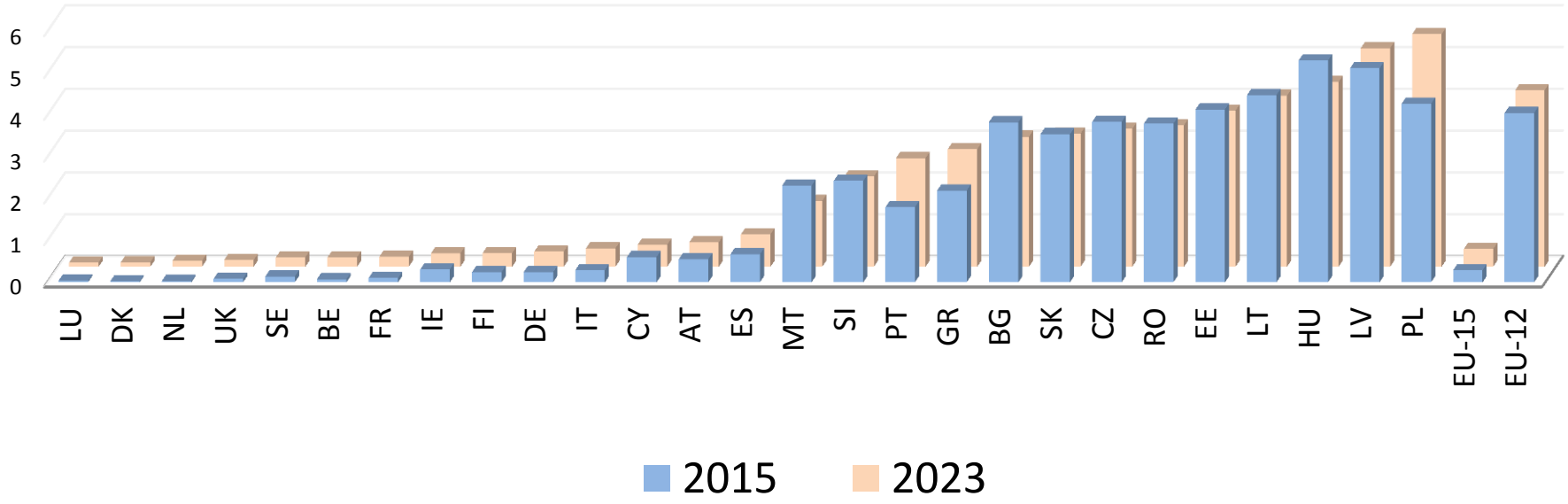
Evidence at Union Level … and on the ground



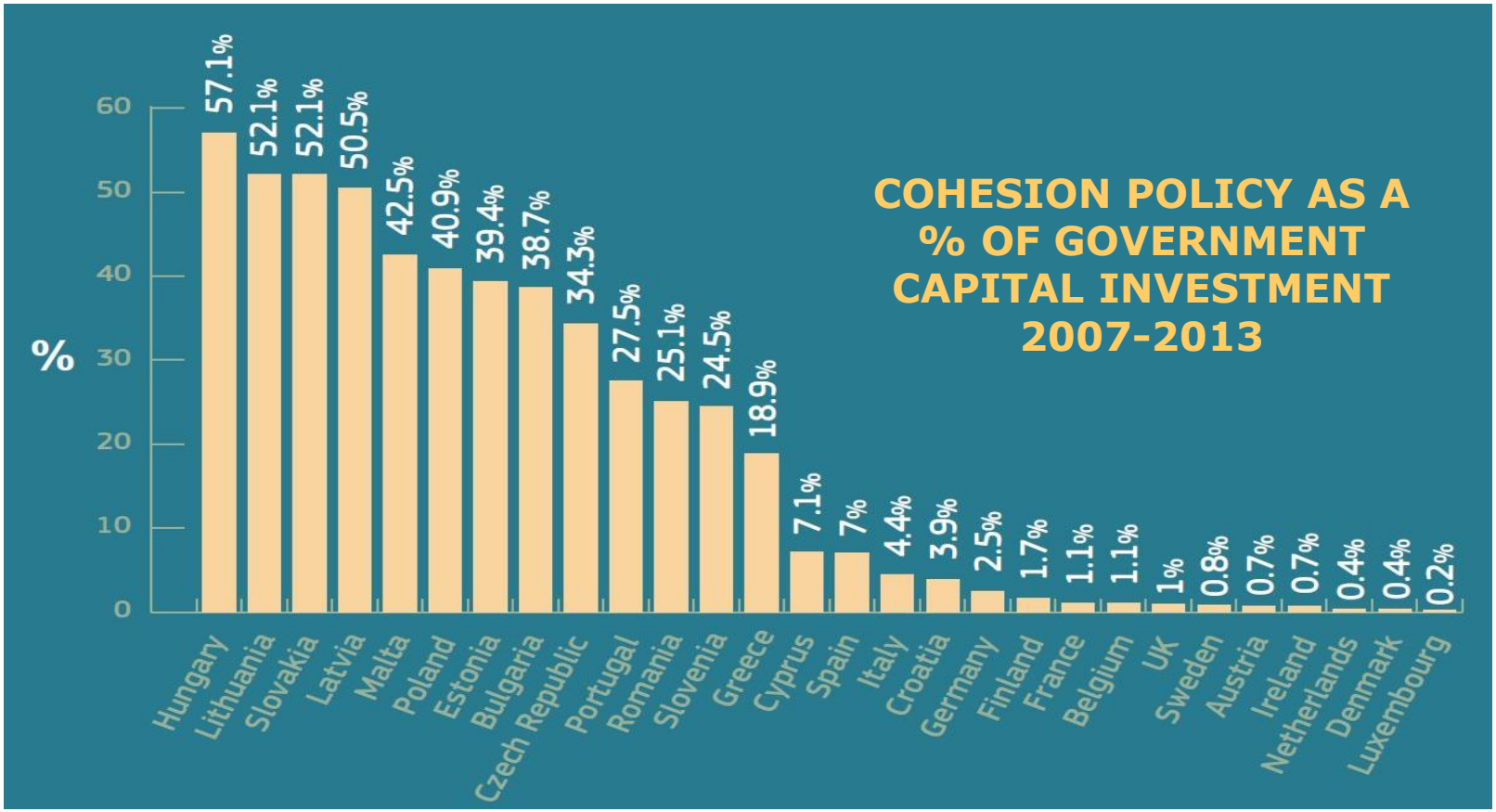


Net positive impact for all Member States, even net contributors

(GDP, % deviation from baseline)



Critical support to public investment during the crisis



Selected achievements in Poland

Firms

- *156 000 jobs were created, of which 53 000 in SMEs*
- *18 000 SMEs were supported and 3 200 start-ups – created*

Environment

- *660 000 people connected to new or upgraded wastewater treatment facilities*
- *310 000 people with access to improved water supply*

Transport

- *2 300 km of new roads constructed, 8 800 km upgraded*
- *720 km of railway lines upgraded*

Information society

- *8 500 000 people gained access to broadband*

However, the context in which we operate, changes…

- *"Post-truth"* era
- Constrained budgets
- Cohesion policy under increased scrutiny

➔ *Greater pressure than ever to provide robust policy evidence*

Lessons learned from 2007-2013

Evaluations:

- Great diversity in practice and quality among 800 evaluations of Regional and Cohesion Fund supported interventions carried out between 2007-2012
- Limited numbers of evaluations dealing with effects and impact, focus was much more management and implementation issues.

Programming/monitoring:

- Vague objectives (often deliberately, for flexibility)
- Instruments often selected rather for absorption than impact
- Limited use of common indicators (No regulatory obligation)

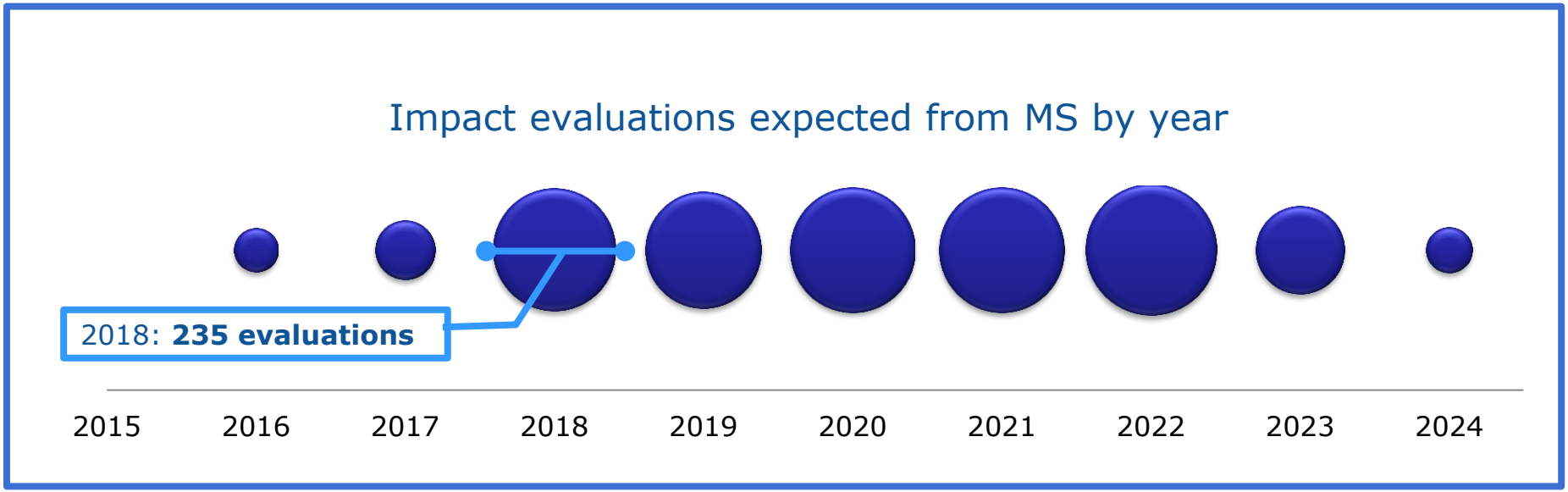
These issues were confirmed by the ex post evaluation

2014-20 more focus on results

- Result orientation and improved indicators
- Obligatory use and monitoring of indicators
- Regular reporting of results and outputs, performance framework linked to a performance reserve
- Evaluation plans and impact evaluation for each of the specific objectives, assessing contribution to results

Potential evidence from MS:

- More than 1.500 impact evaluations for 2014-2020 in total



+ EC evaluation activities (interim evaluations, meta-analyses, studies, ex-post evaluation)

DG REGIO evaluation strategy forsees

Evaluations/Studies :

- **Ex post evaluation of major projects** supported by the ERDF and Cohesion Fund between 2000 and 2013 (2017)
- Evaluation on the **European Union Solidarity Fund** (EUSF) 2002-2016 (2017)
- **Regionalisation of ESIF payments**, 1989-2015 (2017)
- **Gap analysis** to identify the areas that have not been covered extensively by Member State evaluations and which will be object of additional evaluations by REGIO (after 2018).

Collaboration with other ESIF DGs to prepare further conceptual basis for a next programming period:

- **Open data platform**. Development and publication of integrated datasets for the evaluation of effectiveness of Cohesion Policy (2016)
- **Harmonise monitoring and evaluation terminology** across ESIF DGs

Support to MS:

Summer Schools

Provision of **methodological support** on specific evaluation issues

DATA DISSEMINATION

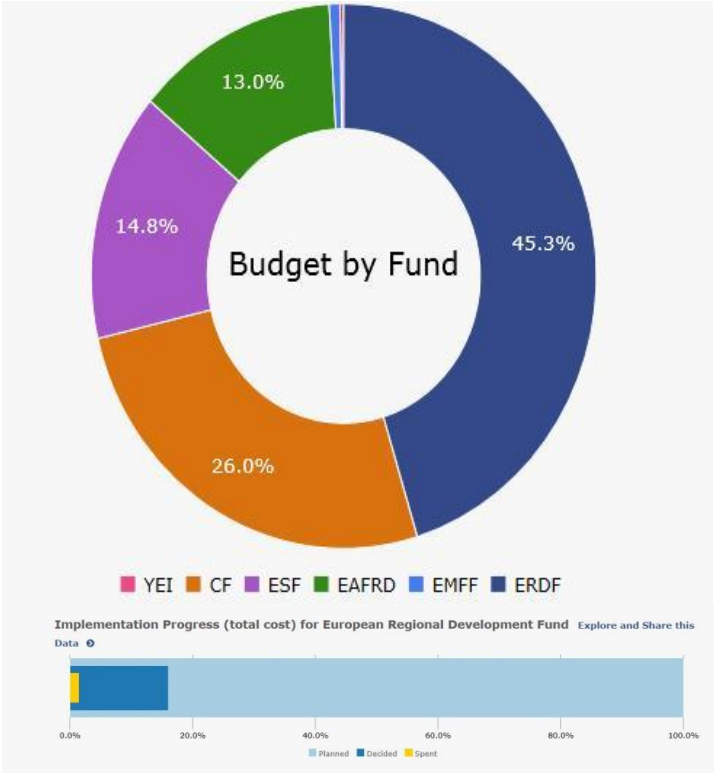
Open Data Platform of ESI Funds

- ✓ **Public data platform for the programming period 2014-2020**
- ✓ **Four ESI DGs: AGRI, EMPL, MARE, and REGIO**
- ✓ **Launched in December 2015 – updated regularly**

https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/

DATA DISSEMINATION

Data Visualization of Planned and Implemented Investments



Access to detailed data in Catalogue

Conclusions/Future

- Evidence based policy making depends on enhanced quality of inputs from all stakeholders:
  - MAs: Data and monitoring systems; quality ToRs.
  - Evaluators: Robust evaluations based on valid methods and "readable" reports with understandable conclusions
  - MC: Be ready to discuss issues openly and ensure follow-up
- Crucial to bringing back public debate in the realm of facts

Thank you!

ESIF Open Data Platform: https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/

Evaluation: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/evaluations/

Strategic reporting 2007-2013: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/en/policy/how/stages-step-by-step/strategic-report/