in collaboration with:

EU Investment Capacity Group 2025

The Survival of Cohesion Policy

Friday, 14 March 2025, 14:30 – 16:30
Giorgio Amendola Foundation
Via Tollegno 52, 10154 Turin, Italy

Background

The future of EU cohesion policy is at a crossroads. The EU's current strategic priorities require substantial investments in green, digital and social transitions and, now increasingly, defense. The EU Budget negotiations will be crucial in strengthening European financial and investment capacity, yet there is a risk that new priorities such as competitiveness, defence, and preparedness could sideline cohesion. Ensuring that these instruments contribute to reducing regional disparities rather than exacerbating them is key.

At the same time, cohesion policy itself must evolve—learning from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) to improve governance, simplify procedures, and enhance its effectiveness. However, this modernisation should not deprive the cohesion policy of its primary objective. In particular, the intention of the Commission to give more powers within EU budget (MFF) to the national, as opposed to the regional level, could be a setback for the cohesion policy. The performance-based approach of the RRF type might not be fully applicable to the cohesion goals either.

Without a strong commitment to cohesion, Europe risks deepening inequalities at a time when economic integration and geopolitical instability demand greater unity.

To discuss the future and revision of cohesion policy, the **EU Investment Capacity Group—**an initiative by FEPS and FES to stimulate the elaboration of policy proposals within the progressive family—will gather with Fondazione Amendola and under the patronage of the City of Turin on **Friday, 14 March 2025, at the Giorgio Amendola Foundation**.

The first part of the meeting will address the future of the European cohesion policy in view of the last communication by the European Commission on MFF. The second part will dwell on the specific case of Italy, where territorial cohesion is further threatened due to the constitutional change for differentiated autonomy.

Hybrid participation and Italian-English interpretation will be available for the first part.
This expert meeting is upon invitation only and will be held under Chatham House rules.

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Agenda

14:00	Registrations and Coffee
14:30	Opening remarks by **Tobias Mörschel**, Director, FES EU Office *(online)* **Jacopo Suppo**, Deputy Mayor of the Metropolitan City of Turin
14:40 – 16:25	The Challenges for Cohesion Policy in the Next EU Budget *Hybrid Roundtable Discussion (IT/EN):* *Policy input by:* • **Eulalia Rubio**, Jacques Delors Institute *(online)* • **Yiannis Latoudis**, S&D Group Secretariat *(online)* *Political exchange with:* • **Brando Benifei**, Member of the European Parliament, Rapporteur for the European Social Fund *(online)* • **Sabrina Repp**, Member of the European Parliament *(online)* *Roundtable exchange with all participants* *Moderated by:* **Domenico Cerabona**, Secretary General, Giorgio Amendola Foundation
16:15 – 16:20	Closing remarks by **László Andor**, FEPS Secretary General, Member of the European Commission High-level Group on the Future of Cohesion and former EU Commissioner on Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

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16:30 – 17:30	Proteggere la coesione territoriale: risorse, governance e nuove autonomie *Roundtable Discussion in Italian with inputs by:* • **Chiara Gribaudo**, Member of the Italian Parliament and Deputy President, Partito Democratico *(online)* • **Amedeo Lepore**, Professor of Economic History at the Department of Economics, Università degli Studi della Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli" *(online)* *Moderated by:* **Giovanni Cerchia**, Professor of History, Università degli Studi del Molise
17:45 – 18:15	Networking Aperitivo

This event is produced with the financial support of the European Parliament. It does not represent the views of the European Parliament.