

Major Projects of the 2014-2020 programming period financed by the European Regional Fund for Development or the Cohesion Fund

> **Unit F.1 Closure and Major Projects DG Regional and Urban Policy**



What is a major project?

Major projects

Article 100

Content

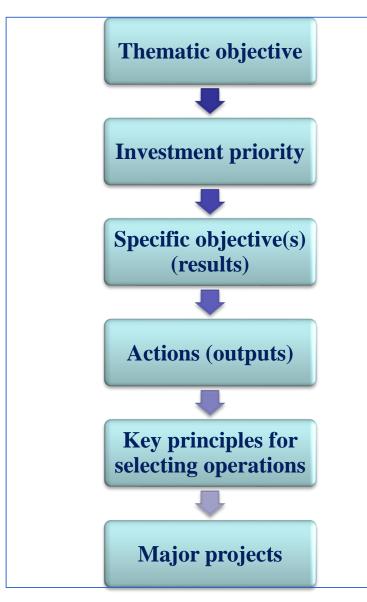
As part of an operational programme or operational programmes, which have been subject to a Commission decision under Article 96(10) of this Regulation or under Article 8(12) of the ETC Regulation, the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund may support an operation comprising a series of works, activities or services intended in itself to accomplish an indivisible task of a precise economic or technical nature which has clearly identified goals and for which the total eligible cost exceeds EUR 50 000 000 and in the case of operations contributing to the thematic objective under point (7) of the first paragraph of Article 9 where the total eligible cost exceeds EUR 75 000 000 (the 'major project'). Financial instruments shall not be considered to be major projects.



The policy context of major projects

- □ <u>Compulsory list</u> of major projects in the operational programmes
- Stronger role of <u>independent experts</u>: JASPERS
- Less major projects: higher thresholds and based on total eligible cost
- Stronger focus on realisation of major projects: all decisions are <u>conditional</u>
- Simplified rules for Cost Benefit Analysis and grant calculations: "flat rates", updated CBA aiming at simplification while keeping essentials
- Certification of expenditure possible only when the project is submitted to the Commission or sent to JASPERS for Independent Quality Review
- □ No N+3 rule exceptions (deductions) due to major projects
- □ No financing of completed projects





Major projects in the Operational Programme 2014-2020: they have to be in line with the intervention logic



The legal context of major projects

- Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 (Art. 100-103)
- Delegated Regulation (EU) 480/2014: Chapter III (Art. 22-23) and Annexes I & II
- Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/207: Art. 1 & 2 and Annexes II & III
- Regulation (EU) No 1011/2014 Art. 1 and Annex I.



The Member States and the European Commission responsibilities related to major projects

- 1. Member States and the European Commission work in shared management mode
- 2. Member States are responsible for preparing and sending major projects to the European Commission
- *3. The European Commission performs a decisionmaking procedure on the major projects*



Member State is responsible for preparing & submitting a major project

Two channels for applying for the EU co-financing

Notification

Submission





Notification with IQR* (art. 102.1)

Submission of all documents (art. 102.2)

Notification without IQR (art. 103 – for phased projects only)

* Independent Quality Review



Tool - System for Fund management in the European Community = SFC 2014

SFC2014 application is a shared management tool:

- Platform used by EC and MS for EU funds management
- Period: 2014-2020
- Electronic data exchange

Used by 5 EC Directorate General:

- EMPL Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion
- **REGIO Regional Policy**
- AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development
- MARE Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
- HOME Home Affairs



To access SFC2014 go to the SFC Portal: https://ec.europa.eu/sfc/





All project's documentation goes through the following steps during the EC decision-making procedure

Quality checks in DG REGIO

Consultation with other DGs

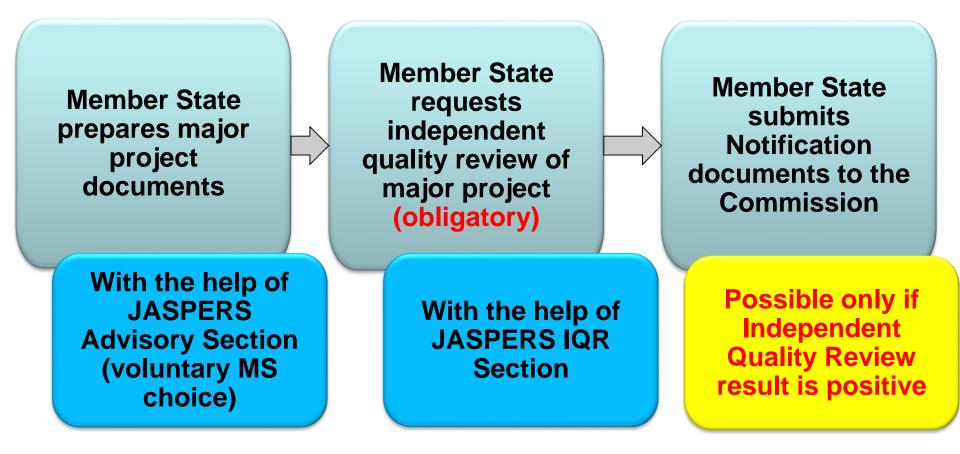
Decision on project Yes/Interrupted*/No

EC major projects related decision-making procedure

Duration for the Commission decision making procedure is 3 months (two procedures without the possibility of interruption and one (art. 102.2) with the possibility of interruption)



Article 102(1) procedure





State of play of major project submissions is now published in Open Data Platform:

Chart on submitted major projects:

https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.e u/2014-2020/Major-projects-2014-2020-submitted-chart/r9y2kdsg

Chart on approved major projects per thematic objectives: <u>https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.e</u> <u>u/2014-2020/MP-2014-2020-by-</u> <u>TO/ffqk-pz6h</u> European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) - explore our data





Recurring questions affecting timely decision-making

- Is the data consistent throughout the documents?
- ✤ Is the demand analysis reliable?
- Why that specific investment option was selected?
- How reliable is the environmental profile of the project if the project demand analysis is unreliable? (for transport projects)
- ✤ Has the EIA covered the necessary area?
- Was population consulted?
- How the outcome from public consultation was taken into consideration in the environmental permit?



Recurring questions affecting timely decision-making

- Is the environmental permit still valid?
- How the protection of drinking water sources is ensured?
- How noise protection is ensured?
- How Natura 2000 site(s) is/are protected/not endangered?
- Where there construction changes? Was there a new screening?
- What about the protection of migration corridors for wild life?



Further information sources:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/major/

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/pdf/cba_guide.pdf

https://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/clima/files/docs/major_projects_en.pdf

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/home.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/eia-support.htm

Q&A: <u>REGIO-MAJOR-PROJECTS@ec.europa.eu</u>



Thank you for your attention!

Camelia Mihaela KOVÁCS

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