

Preparing for EU Cohesion Policy 2014 – 2020: Case Studies of Impact Analysis

Mathias Feige

<http://trc.aiest.org/members/mathias-feige>
dwif-Consulting GmbH, Berlin

Abstract

As of 2014 the next EU funding period will start and last until 2020. With regards to structural funds, this will lead to fundamental changes compared to the current funding period: The main focus will continue to be on less developed regions though. But to some extent previous top priority development areas such as most parts of Eastern Germany will be classified as the new category of transition regions, which means that the amount of available subsidies will decrease significantly. Furthermore, the growth strategy Europe 2020 and the Common Strategic Framework involve the concentration on a few topics only: competitiveness of SMEs, energy efficiency/renewable energies as well as research and innovation will be key issues. In addition, tourism will no longer form an own funding subject and the acquisition of subsidies for touristic infrastructure will be more difficult than so far.

Against this background, governments of German federal states ask about the effect of infrastructure and business funding, in order to prepare the design of the Operational Programmes. The article examines this issue by providing examples from Schleswig-Holstein. The conclusion is that in the case of infrastructure funding the initiative of public authorities determines the following investments by private companies. Moreover, diverse monetary and other effects can be measured. The case of business funding also shows that initial subsidies launch a positive investment spiral. In this respect, the article discusses factors of success and failure.