



## **An EU budget from local and regional government's perspective** CEMR position on the Multiannual Financial Framework post 2020

CEMR backs a future EU budget that is fit for purpose, both in the short and long-term perspective, taking account of the broader context of the debate on Europe's future, the impact of Brexit and the commitment to place citizens' needs and expectations at the heart of the EU.

The EU's budget post 2020 demands a targeted approach to spending, where bold decisions will be needed on how to deliver European aspirations. In our view, this will be achieved by focussing on policies that demonstrate an EU added value.

### **Ambitious policies require an adequate budget: local and regional priorities beyond 2020**

For CEMR several future policies are particularly worth highlighting, given their importance for addressing common EU challenges that lie ahead, their far-reaching consequences for local and regional governments' contribution and action, and the need to ensure effective policy management through shared governance arrangements

- Cohesion policy
- Social rights
- Digitalisation
- Demographic change
- Urban and rural development
- Technological and social innovation
- Climate and energy
- Circular economy
- Migration policy
- Citizenship
- International cooperation

From local and regional governments' perspective, discussions on the next financial framework should take into consideration the following concerns:

- Ensuring a budget focused on policies that **deliver European Added Value** and that can adapt to an evolving global, economic, social, environmental and technological context;
- A budget, guided by the **principles of subsidiarity and proportionality** and tailored to enable easy access by municipalities and regions, and – where possible - delivered as close to the citizens' needs.
- A **simplified budget**, where the priorities identified should fit closely with those of local and regional governments as they are key partners for achieving those EU priorities.

## 7 cross-cutting principles increasing the budget relevance for local and regional governments

In addition to supporting local democracy and sustainable development, CEMR believes in a future EU budget that is underpinned by cross-cutting principles that apply across the different funding streams and programmes.



### A transparent budget closer to citizens' needs

CEMR urges the EU to adopt a fresh approach in preparing a revised budget, one that should be forward-looking and people-centred. To ensure that decisions are taken as closely as possible to the citizen, budgetary commitments related to the EU budget and the resulting programmes and policies, should be defined according to the subsidiarity principle and the competences of each tier of government.



### Simplified rules for investments

The EU budget must have simpler and more aligned rules. The streamlining of programmes and initiatives is key, to enable them to become more understandable and accessible to local and regional governments and stakeholders.



### Make the multilevel governance in partnership really matter

An enhanced partnership between different levels of government must be applied to ensure an effective implementation of the budget. We ask for the transversal application of the partnership principle when building and choosing priorities for the post-2020 period, where relevant policies and programmes are concerned.



### Enhanced consideration of the territorial dimension

Territorial impact assessments should be systematically undertaken to improve understanding of the spatial effects of EU policies and funds and the possible effects on the powers of local self-government. Such an approach should include an early exchange on the impacts of policies and legislation on the national and subnational level.



### A strengthened integrated approach

CEMR requests that a reformed MFF should help bring about a more integrated approach to the use of EU funds. It also calls for a more integrated approach of the funding programmes by the different European Commission's services.



### A gender-responsive budget

The upcoming MFF should be gender-responsive and provide support to pan-European actions to foster awareness raising, peer learning, information exchange, advice and assistance.



### Capacity-building

There should be dedicated headlines for technical assistance under each budget line in order to boost the technical expertise of local and regional governments in the use of EU funds. The national statistical offices should be asked to collect disaggregated data.

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