

WHAT IS A COHESION POLICY PROGRAMMING CYCLE?

Under the European multi-annual budget, cohesion policies co-financed by Community resources have been programmed in seven-year cycles starting with 2000-2006. Subsequent cycles were, therefore, as follows: 2007-2013, 2014-2020 and the current 2021-2027 cycle. Completion of each individual programming cycle does not coincide with the actual end date. According to the rules valid for Community funds, the actual duration of each seven-year programming cycle extends for a further 2 or 3 years (i.e. the "n + 2" rule in force for the 2007-2013 and 2021-2027 cycles or the "n + 3" rule for the 2014-2020 cycle), during which funds can still be spent. Implementation of the projects under the Programmes co-financed by Community cohesion funds, therefore, has an overlap between the conclusion of one cycle and the start of the next.

With regard to cohesion funding in Italy, initially the programming of the former Fund for Underutilized Areas, now known as the Development and Cohesion Fund (DCF), was annual. Starting with the 2007-2013 programming cycle, multi-annual appropriation over a seven-year timeline was established, in line with the European Community cycles.