

# Functional areas in the Cohesion policy framework 2021-2027

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# Territorial development in the European Union

- Article 174 of the TFEU refers to the Union developing and promoting actions leading to the **strengthening of its economic, social and territorial cohesion** to promote overall harmonious development, and
- in particular aiming at **reducing disparities between levels of development** of the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions.
- Article 176 of the TFEU provides that the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is intended to help **to redress the main regional imbalances** in the Union.



# Agendas and commitments for territorial development

A functional area is defined by the internal system of interactions and relationships and covers a territory of several administrative-territorial units that cooperate and are linked by economic, **communications, transport activities.**

(Council of Europe Conference of Ministers Responsible for Spatial Planning – CEMAT)



## New Leipzig Charter

*Both highlight the principles of a place-based, integrated approach, multilevel governance and support functional area approach*



## Territorial Agenda 2030



## Long-term vision for rural areas

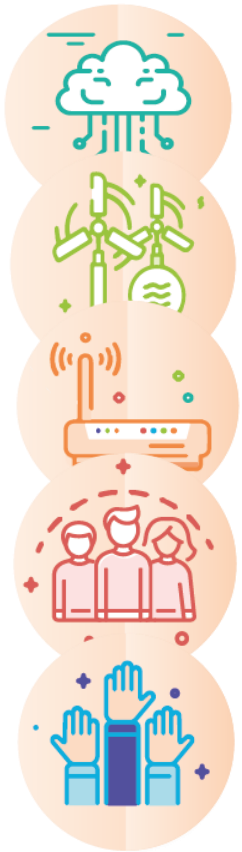
*New definition of functional rural areas*



## Demography toolbox and Harnessing talent communications and Talent booster mechanism



# Cohesion policy framework



A smarter Europe

A greener, low-carbon Europe

A more connected Europe

A more social Europe

**A Europe closer to citizens - sustainable and integrated development**

**(i) fostering the integrated development in urban areas**

**(ii) fostering the development in areas other than urban**



# Building integrated Territorial Strategies through Cohesion policy

Strategic Dimension

Territorial Focus

Governance

Cross-Sectoral Integration

Funding and Finance

Monitoring

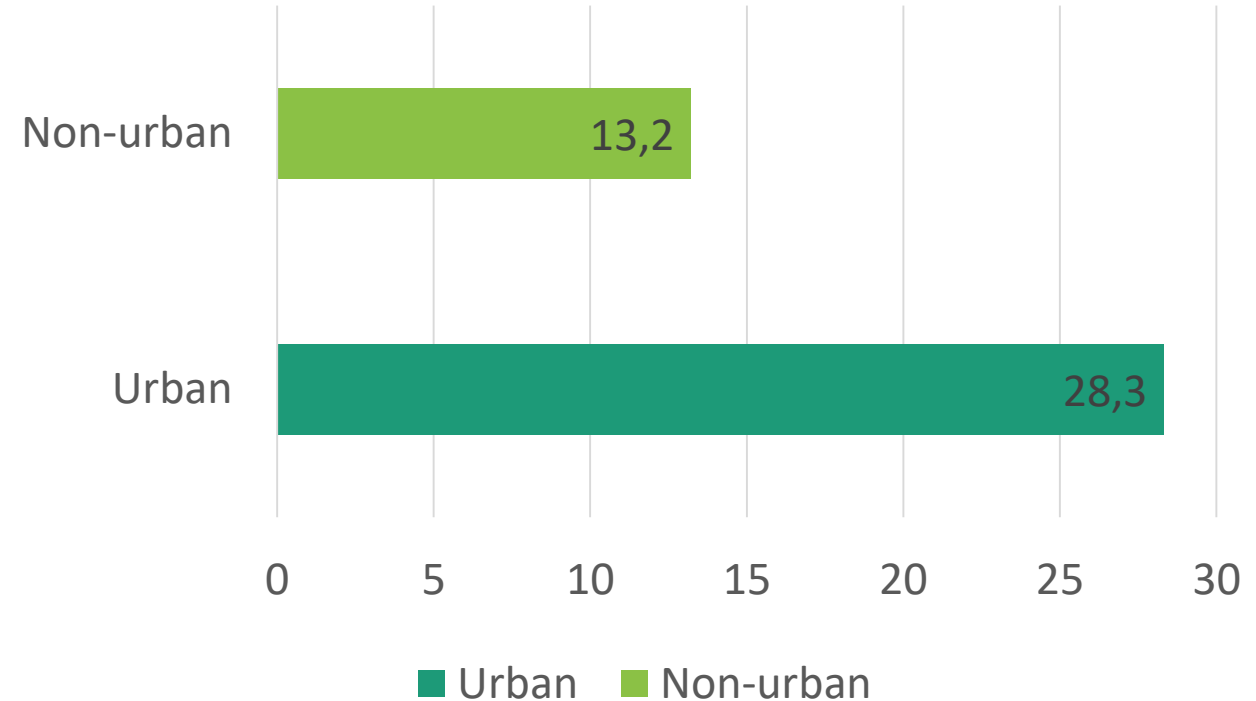
**Territorial focus**: Having an explicit territorial focus means that needs, challenges and opportunities for development must match the appropriate spatial scale and territorial context:

- **Neighborhood**: one or more specific districts within an administrative area;
- **Cities, towns or suburbs**: individual municipality.
- **Functional area**: area or region that functions as a unitary system from a political, social and/or economic point of view.



# Integrated approaches in programmes 2021-

- **27** Member States
- EUR **41 billion** through placed based **integrated territorial strategies** at sub-regional level
- Focusing on **urban areas and non-urban** areas with special attention to the role of **Functional Urban areas** to tackling urban-rural linkages (art.11 ERDF)



## *Article 11*

### **Sustainable urban development**

1. To address economic, environmental, climate, demographic and social challenges, the ERDF shall support integrated territorial development based on territorial or community-led local development strategies in accordance with Article 29 or 32 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, respectively, that are focused on urban areas, including functional urban areas ('sustainable urban development') within programmes under both goals referred to in Article 5(2) of that Regulation.



# Territorial tools

Support from the funds to be provided for integrated territorial and local development through the following territorial tools:

**ITI**

**CLLD**

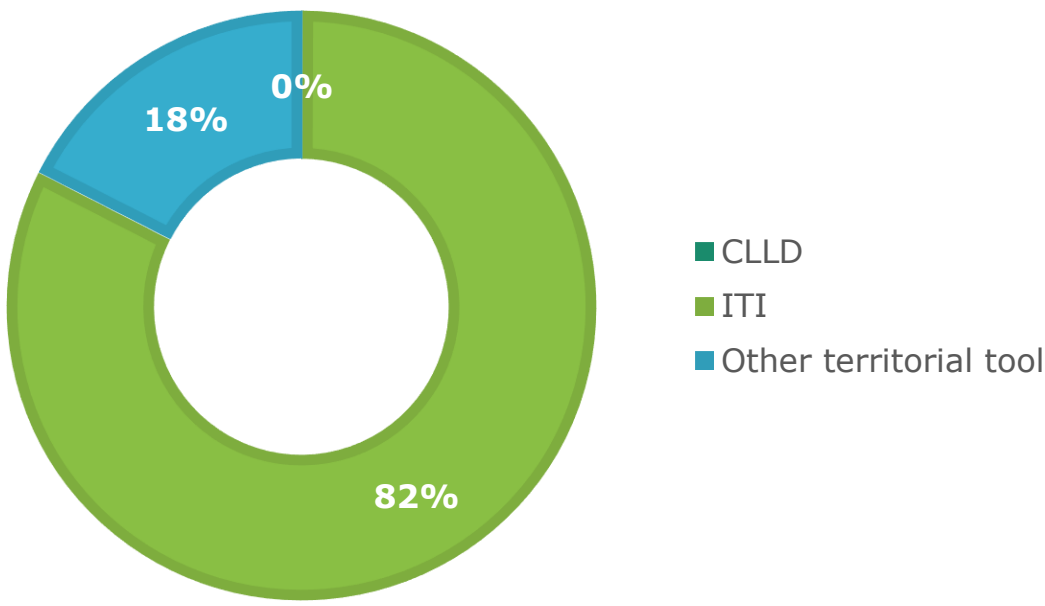
**Other Territorial Tools**





# Zoom on functional urban areas: use of territorial tools in 2021 – 2027

SUD - FUA BY TOOL

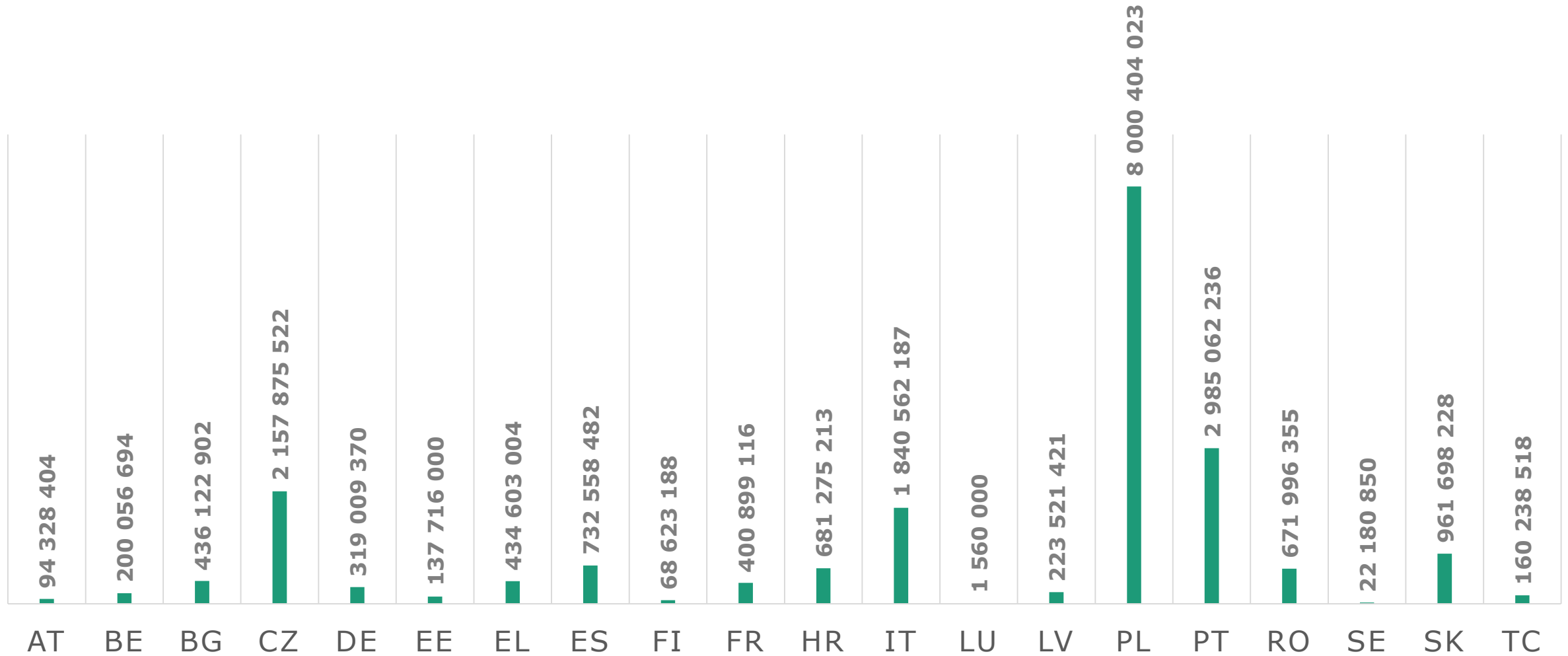


SUD- FUA allocation in EUR

CLLD	10.134.004
ITI	13.188.235.547
Other territorial tool	2.802.471.835
Grand Total	16.000.841.386



# Zoom on functional urban areas: Allocations in EUR per MS in 2021 – 2027



# Joint work on territorial development strategies

- The EU promotes the integrated approach to urban and territorial development. Article 11 of the ERDF Regulation encourages the use of a **Functional Area approach** when implementing Sustainable Urban Development strategies.
- Not all territories across the EU have the same **experience and capacity** in delivering place-based integrated policies.
- A set of **tools** was developed and can be found in the **Urban Data Platform plus** and in the new **toolkit for functional areas last week**



# URBAN DATA PLATFORM PLUS



## Urban Data Platform Plus

The **Urban Data Platform Plus** is a joint initiative of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO). As a key component of the [Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policies](#), it provides access to information on the **status and trends** of cities and regions, to EU supported urban and territorial development **strategies** and to the local dimension of Sustainable Development Goals.



### Dashboards

Discover a world of data and how [your place](#) – city, province, district, region or country – is performing, thanks to our unique collection of official and experimental indicators covering socio-economic and environmental aspects that have an impact on our everyday life. On top of the 360 degrees overview of a specific place, you can also find out [trends](#) in cities, regions and local areas in Europe and beyond, including overtime evolution and projections from the latest and most advanced modelling frameworks!

[Go to Dashboards >](#)



### Strategies

Explore our policy learning tools to design, implement and monitor strategies for urban and territorial development supported by EU cohesion policy based on a unique knowledge base covering all Europe.

[Go to Strategies >](#)



### The localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Localising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) involves the definition, implementation and monitoring of strategies at the local level, which is essential to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The JRC URBAN2030 project focuses on this local monitoring of the SDGs.

[Go to SDGs >](#)



### Thematic Analyses

**Thematic Analyses** combine data with analytical capabilities, trying to connect the dots and draw meaningful messages. The final aim consists in making sense of geo-spatial statistical information by transforming data mapping into sound multi-dimensional analysis at various territorial levels, from national to regional and urban. Discover our [Future of Cities](#) report and other top class socio-economic and environmental analyses at the regional and urban level.

[Go to Thematic Analyses >](#)



### Tools

As working with statistics at the local level introduces additional complexity, we offer some tools that may ease your life in analysing data sets based on different formats.

[Go to Tools >](#)

## Strategies



<https://europa.eu/!XxCXjD>

## Urban Data Platform Plus

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[European Commission](#) > [Knowledge for policy](#) > [Territorial](#) > [Urban Data Platform Plus](#) > [Strategies](#)

## Strategies



### STRAT-Board



**STRAT-Board** is an interactive tool developed by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and DG REGIO under the umbrella of the Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policies. It aims to provide a continuously updated state of play on how European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) support the integrated approach to urban and territorial development by offering a visual overview of Sustainable Urban Development (SUD), Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) and Community-led Local Development (CLLD) strategies implemented across Europe within Cohesion Policy 2014-2020.

The tool enables the exploration of investment strategies by different perspectives such as geographical unit, spatial focus, thematic concentration, size of population, funding arrangements and implementation mechanisms. Find out more in our methodological note.

[Explore the online platform >](#)



### Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies

As a complement to the work of the Urban Development Network of the European Commission, the **Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies** provides methodological support to cities, managing authorities and other stakeholders involved in the design and implementation of urban strategies under Cohesion Policy by creating room for exchange of experience and policy learning. In particular, it refers to Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) as supported by the European Regional Development Fund during the programming periods.



### Self-Assessment Tool for Sustainable Urban Development strategies

The **Self-Assessment Tool for Sustainable Urban Development strategies (SAT4SUD)** is intended to be used by Local Authorities and Managing Authorities of EU Cohesion Policy. It aims to support them when verifying to what extent the strategy builds on an integrated and participatory approach. The tool focuses on a self-assessment as an important learning practice and it helps to assess the strategy's completeness and quality, from its design and implementation, to its monitoring and evaluation.

[Explore the online platform >](#)



### Handbook of Territorial and Local Development Strategies

The **Handbook of Territorial and Local Development Strategies** targets different communities of policymakers (regional and national managing authorities, local authorities, local action groups, development agencies, etc.) with the aim to promote sustainable and integrated development in areas other than urban areas. It provides the readers with a number of practical tips, examples and recommendations, as well as references to existing literature, guidance and tools, to best address relevant policy challenges in the framework of cohesion policy 2021-2027.

[Download the report >](#)

# Tools and handbooks



## STRAT-Board

- Online interactive tool that maps all territorial and urban strategies plus a set of projects financed under Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 (+soon the 2021-2027)



## Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies

- Policy learning and methodological support to design and implement sustainable urban development strategies



## Handbook of territorial and local development strategies

- Policy learning and methodological support for strategies in areas other than urban



## Specific Toolkit for functional areas

- Based on six building blocks with each containing specific recommendations, tools and examples, available at: <https://functionalareas.eu/>.

**THANK YOU!**

