

# EPRC

EUROPEAN POLICIES RESEARCH CENTRE

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Delft



## EoRPA Work Programme 2018



## Report to EoRPA Members



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>EORPA WORK PROGRAMME AND OUTPUTS IN 2018.....</b>              | <b>1</b> |
| <b>1. INTRODUCTION.....</b>                                       | <b>1</b> |
| <b>2. EoRPA COMPARATIVE PAPERS.....</b>                           | <b>1</b> |
| 2.1 Annual review of regional policy developments in Europe ..... | 1        |
| 2.2 Thematic papers and Policy briefings.....                     | 1        |
| 2.3 Annual report on EU Cohesion policy.....                      | 2        |
| 2.4 Annual report on EU Competition policy and regional aid ..... | 2        |
| 2.5 Delivery of papers .....                                      | 2        |
| <b>3. EoRPA COUNTRY MATERIAL.....</b>                             | <b>2</b> |
| 3.1 Country reports and fiches.....                               | 2        |
| 3.2 Comparative tables on regional policy instruments .....       | 3        |
| <b>4. EoRPA MEETINGS IN 2018.....</b>                             | <b>3</b> |
| 4.1 EoRPA Interim Meeting on Cohesion policy in June 2018 .....   | 3        |
| 4.2 Annual EoRPA Meeting in October 2018.....                     | 3        |
| <b>5. EoRPA PRESENTATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT.....</b>                 | <b>3</b> |
| 5.1 EoRPA Policy Advice and Presentations.....                    | 3        |
| 5.2 EoRPA Website .....   | 4        |
| 5.3 Dissemination .....   | 4        |
| <b>6. EPRC DELFT.....</b>   | <b>4</b> |



# EORPA WORK PROGRAMME AND OUTPUTS IN 2018

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This paper outlines the planned work programme and outputs for EoRPA in 2018, based on feedback received from EoRPA Members on the 2017 EoRPA reports and 2017 October meeting and on the draft 2018 work programme.

Based on Member feedback, EPRC will take the following approach for 2018:

- we will **revise the orientation and format of the comparative papers** in 2018, so that they are **shorter and more tightly focused** – see Section 2;
- we will continue to produce detailed **reviews of regional policy in 30 European countries** – see Section 3;
- we will organise an **additional interim meeting on the reform of the MFF and Cohesion policy**, once the European Commission has published its proposals – see Section 4; and
- we will ensure **ongoing engagement** with Members through briefings, presentations and the EoRPA website – see Section 5.

## 2. EORPA COMPARATIVE PAPERS

### 2.1 Annual review of regional policy developments in Europe

The basis for the EoRPA research is an annual review of regional policies and recent changes across 30 European countries. In 2018, EPRC will take further steps to ensure that the report is **shorter, more clearly focused and readable**, based on the following structure:

- regional/territorial challenges in Europe;
- overview of regional policy trends in the Europe 30;
- the key regional policy changes in 2017-18 (focusing on countries with significant change);
- conclusions.

### 2.2 Thematic papers and Policy briefings

In recent years, EoRPA Members have indicated interest in an increasing number of thematic issues, and it has proved difficult to do justice to the range of interests. Instead of covering just one of these themes in a long paper (as in the past), in 2018 EPRC will produce **three shorter papers on a broader range of themes** as identified by Members.

For 2018, Members have suggested the following themes:

- regional patterns of trust, possibly linked to regional/social inequality and/or shrinking regions (depopulation and decreasing services);
- smart specialisation in practice;
- best practice policies for addressing radical structural change;
- regional coordination across borders, both within the ETC and outside;

- Brexit consequences for EEA countries; and
- digitalisation and peripheral regions.

In 2018, EPRC will prepare briefings on these themes, either in the form of short papers for discussion at the October meeting or as policy briefings on a rolling basis throughout the year.

In addition, EPRC will continue to produce Policy briefings on EU Cohesion/Competition policy issues and on major policy changes in individual countries.

### **2.3 Annual report on EU Cohesion policy**

The 2017 paper (EoRPA Paper 17/5) provided an update on both the mid-term review of the MFF, and on debates on the future of the MFF and Cohesion policy post-2020. In 2018, this paper will be more targeted and will focus on **key issues in the post-2020 debate**, notably the reform of the EU budget and Cohesion policy.

### **2.4 Annual report on EU Competition policy and regional aid**

Recent papers have examined the reform of the Regional Aid Guidelines in 2014-20 and the 2017 paper (EoRPA Paper 17/4) took a long-term view of EU regional aid control since 1957, assessing future directions in this policy field. In 2018, this paper will focus on the **reform of EU regional State aid control post-2020**.

### **2.5 Delivery of papers**

In 2017 the Thematic paper and the Annual Review were sent out ten days before the meeting, while the other reports were sent out between 10 days and one week in advance. In 2018, EPRC aims to ensure that all reports will be sent out two weeks in advance of the October meeting.

## **3. EORPA COUNTRY MATERIAL**

### **3.1 Country reports and fiches**

The Annual Review is built on detailed country-specific reviews of regional policy in 30 European countries. For each country, this material includes:

- a report on regional policy;
- fiches on regional policy instruments (business aid, infrastructure, networks/clusters, and strategies);
- a fiche on Cohesion policy in 2014-20;
- a fiche on the regional aid map and another fiche on its application in 2014-20; and
- a fiche on the institutional framework of regional policy.

EPRC will **update this country material** in 2018.

## 3.2 Comparative tables on regional policy instruments

The Annual Review is also supplemented by comparative tables providing structured on regional policy instruments (e.g. EoRPA Paper 17/3) i.e.:

- regional business aid schemes;
- measures for the support for business-oriented infrastructure;
- measures aimed at support for quality of life;
- regional measures for bottom-up economic development;
- targeted packages for regions facing economic difficulties; and
- regional innovation strategies and policies.

EPRC will revise these comparative tables in 2018.

## 4. EORPA MEETINGS IN 2018

### 4.1 EoRPA Interim Meeting on Cohesion policy in June 2018

An interim EoRPA meeting will be held on either **20 or 28 June 2018** (depending on partner availability) at the premises of **EPRC Delft** in the Netherlands. The meeting will focus on the European Commission's draft Multiannual Financial Framework and proposals for the future of Cohesion policy. EPRC will be in contact with Members with further information about the interim meeting.

### 4.2 Annual EoRPA Meeting in October 2018

The autumn **2018 EoRPA Meeting will be held on 30 September - 2 October 2018 at Ross Priory in Scotland**. The date will not clash with the 2018 European Week of Regions & Cities, which will be held in the following week (8-11 October 2018).

In line with our plan for a greater thematic focus in the EoRPA reports, EPRC proposes some reorganisation of the meeting agenda to provide not only the broad overview of regional policy trends and key changes, but also more focused discussion on specific themes of common interest relating to domestic regional policy agendas.

## 5. EORPA PRESENTATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

### 5.1 EoRPA Policy Advice and Presentations

EPRC also provides bilateral policy advice and makes presentations in EoRPA member countries on request. A number of Members have already contacted EPRC about advice and presentations in 2017 and other **Members are also invited to express their interest in bilateral engagement** during the year.

## 5.2 EoRPA Website

The EoRPA website was relaunched in 2017. It provides access to all EoRPA outputs as well as news and information on EoRPA meetings (see [www.eprc-strath.eu/eorpa](http://www.eprc-strath.eu/eorpa)). The site has a Member-only section, which is password protected, as well as public pages. The website allows searches for country-specific material (country reports, and fiches on instruments, Cohesion policy, regional aid maps, and institutional frameworks).

## 5.3 Dissemination

EPRC publishes the Cohesion policy and Competition policy reports shortly after the annual October meeting (given that their information is time-limited in relevance), while the public dissemination of the annual review of regional policy and the thematic report is delayed for at least six months. Given the topicality of papers, we would propose **reducing the delay before publication to three months**, if this is acceptable to Members.

The country reports are not disseminated beyond the EoRPA Members. EoRPA Members make their own arrangements for internal dissemination within their government departments.

## 6. EPRC DELFT

As presented at the October 2017 meeting, and in the Report to Members, the European Policies Research Centre has created a base in the Netherlands in the form of a non-profit foundation dedicated to research and knowledge exchange, which is operating from Delft University of Technology under a cooperation agreement with the University of Strathclyde. The new base is known as EPRC Delft and will be staffed by (initially) a small number of colleagues relocated from Glasgow. EPRC Delft will be used for contracting with external funders where appropriate, notably where EU funding is involved.