

# EU COHESION POLICY: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

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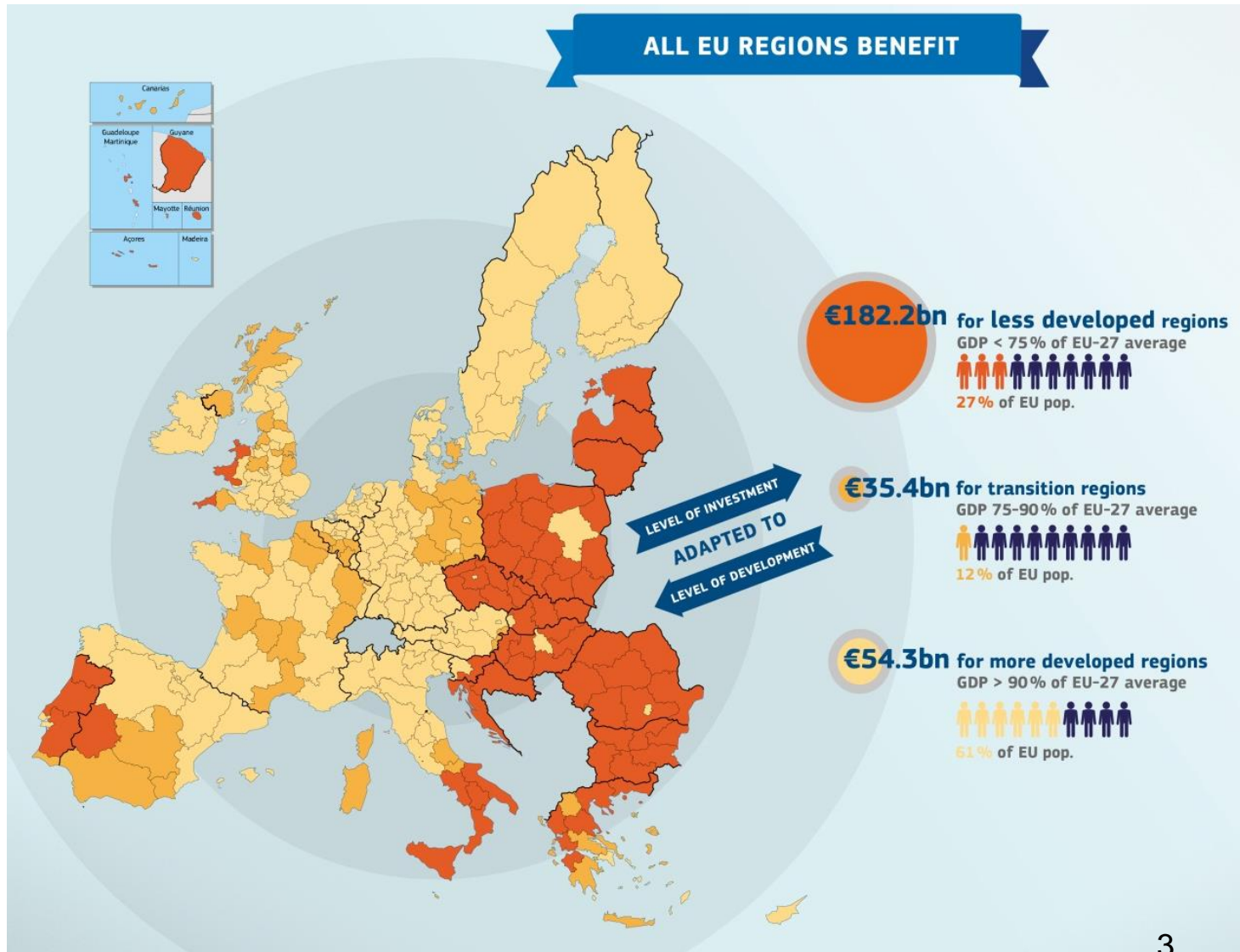
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## KEY PRINCIPLES REMAIN

- **Concentration:** all regions covered but targeting of poorest areas
- **Multiannual programming:** stable medium term strategic and budgetary framework for investments
- **Governance:** Multilevel governance and partnership involving stakeholders
- **Effectiveness:** Maximize impact of the funds

Investing  
in all regions:

2014-2020



## POLICY AIMS

- Strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion in order to **promote overall harmonious development**
- **Reducing disparities** between the levels of development of various regions
- Linkage with **growth, jobs and competitiveness**

## LINKAGE TO ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

- Policy positioned as modern investment tool to deliver on **EU strategy for jobs and growth**
- Account taken of **recommendations to Member States** in European Semester process
- Implemented in context of **balanced partnership between national and regional levels**

## POLICY MIX

- Lesson from past: need for **balance** reflecting level of development and **concentration** on key priorities
- Resources increasingly targeted at key growth sectors: **innovation, ICT, SME's, green economy**
- Search for **synergies**: e.g. upgrading workforce skills and SME support in promoting employment

## ENHANCEMENT OF EFFECTIVENESS

- Emphasis on **intervention logic linking needs, objectives, priorities and results**
- **Conditions for success should be in place** at outset: e.g. regional strategies should reflect sectorial strategies in place
- Focus on **measuring performance**: results and impacts

## REINFORCED TERRITORIAL APPROACH

- Need for **integrated approach** to territorial development
- **Strategic coherence with other territorial instruments**, such as rural development and maritime policy
- Increasing importance of **urban dimension**: cities driving growth and meeting challenges



## MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIP

- **Public bodies at all levels, economic and social partners and civil society** involved in all stages
- Stakeholder involvement enhances **effectiveness** of investments and **sense of ownership**
- Good examples exist BUT: new **Code of Conduct** adopted to reinforce partnership

## EMERGING ISSUES

- Key role of **regional innovation strategies**: "smart specialisation"
- Importance of **administrative capacity**: structures, human resources, systems and controls
- **How to finance?** Grants vs loan finance
- **Lagging regions**: how to improve their performance