Basic information

2015/2224(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
New territorial development tools in the cohesion policy 2014-2020: integrated territorial investment (ITI) and community-led local development (CLLD) **Subject** 4.70.02 Cohesion policy, Cohesion Fund (CF)	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
REGI Regional Development	TOMAŠIĆ Ruža (ECR)	17/06/2015
	Shadow rapporteur BUDA Daniel (PPE) RODRIGUES Liliana (S&D) JAKOVČIĆ Ivan (ALDE) ANDERSON Martina (GUE/NGL) ŠKRLEC Davor (Verts/ALE) D'AMATO Rosa (EFDD) BRIOIS Steeve (ENF)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	ŠOJDROVÁ Michaela (PPE)	07/10/2015

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Regional and Urban Policy	CREȚU Corina

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
10/09/2015	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/02/2016	Vote in committee		

23/02/2016	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0032/2016	Summary
09/05/2016	Debate in Parliament		
10/05/2016	Decision by Parliament	T8-0211/2016	Summary
10/05/2016	Results of vote in Parliament		
10/05/2016	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2015/2224(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	REGI/8/04364

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE571.658	11/11/2015	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE573.173	17/12/2015	
Committee opinion	EMPL	PE571.602	27/01/2016	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0032/2016	23/02/2016	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0211/2016	10/05/2016	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2016)486	23/09/2016	

New territorial development tools in the cohesion policy 2014-2020: integrated territorial investment (ITI) and community-led local development (CLLD)

2015/2224(INI) - 23/02/2016 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Regional Development adopted the own-initiative report by Ruža TOMAŠIĆ (ECR, HR) on new territorial development tools in cohesion policy 2014-2020: Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) and Community-Led Local Development (CLLD).

Members recalled that the CLLD and ITI are **innovative instruments** in cohesion policy and that the new ITI and the CLLD initiatives represent step changes in the ability of local stakeholders to combine funding streams and plan well-targeted local initiatives.

- **CLLD** is a new tool for use at sub-regional level. It is based on the LEADER experience of community-led local development and is based on a bottom-up approach: it aims to strengthen synergies between local actors, both public and private.
- **ITI** will help implement integrated territorial strategies as it allows bundling of funding from several priority axes of one or more operational programmes. ITIs can be used for delivering the sustainable urban development objective, but can be also aimed at other types of territory.

Member States had to **indicate in their Partnership Agreements** how ITI and CLLD will be used by Member States and the types of areas and challenges that these mechanisms will address.

General considerations: Members noted that **tangible involvement of regional and local actors from the outset**, their commitment and ownership of territorial development strategies and proper delegation of responsibilities and resources to lower levels of decision-making are crucial for the success of the bottom-up approach. However, they stressed that local actors require **technical and financial support** from the regional, national and EU levels, especially in the early stages of the implementation process.

The report called for the need to:

- **set out strategies** at the initial stages of the implementation process in collaboration with regional and local actors, particularly at the level of specific and specialist training, and of technical and financial support, in the context of an effective partnership between the regions, Member States and EU;
- **promote the sub-delegation of competences and resources**, within the framework of European Structural and Investment Funds and provide **recommendations and comprehensive guidelines** to Member States on how to overcome the lack of trust and administrative obstacles between the different levels of governance related to the implementation of CLLD and ITI.

Members recommended that local and regional authorities pay particular attention to projects aimed at adapting localities and regions to the new demographic reality and counteracting the imbalances resulting therefrom, particularly through:

- the adaptation of social and mobility infrastructures to demographic change and migratory flows;
- the creation of specific goods and services aimed at an ageing population;
- support for job opportunities for older people, women and migrants that contribute to social inclusion;
- enhanced digital connections and the creation of platforms that enable and foster the participation and interaction of the citizens of the more isolated regions with the various administrative, social and political services of authorities at all levels (local, regional, national and European).

Moreover, Members stressed that **youth unemployment and the SMEs lack of financing** should be addressed in the local and territorial development strategies as one of their priorities.

The report also stressed that the integration of multiple funds continues to be a **challenge for stakeholders**, particularly in the context of CLLD and ITI. It considered that **simplification** efforts are necessary and it invited the Commission and the Member States to provide **additional support, training and guidance** to smaller and less developed localities which have more limited resources and capacity and for which the administrative burden and complexity related to these tools may be difficult to take on during planning and implementation.

Community-led local development (CLLD): Members stated that this instrument offers possibilities for urban and peri-urban areas and should be an integral part of wider urban development strategies, including through cross-border cooperation. It encouraged capacity-building, awareness-raising among social and economic partners, as well as civil society stakeholders, and the active participation of those parties, so that as many partners as possible can propose CLLD strategies.

The Commission and the Member States are called upon to encourage the **sharing of best practices,** embrace the CLLD initiatives and to provide more flexibility in the operational programmes and in the context of regional, national and EU policy frameworks.

Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI): the report stressed that ITI should not be restricted to urban areas only, but may concern geographical areas such as **urban neighbourhoods, metropolitan areas, urban-rural, sub-regional or cross-border**. It considered that ITI also provides for an appropriate structure to tackle territories with poor access to services, and isolated and disadvantaged communities.

Members encouraged the Member States to opt for a **multi-fund approach to ITIs** in order to achieve synergies between the funds in a given territory and to tackle challenges in a more comprehensive manner.

Future recommendations: Members are of the opinion that that CLLD and ITI should **play an even more important role in the future cohesion policy**. They called on the Commission to prepare a report to analyse the impact and effectiveness of CLLD and ITI and whether a compulsory approach in the post-2020 cohesion policy legislation concerning these instruments would be desirable, providing for earmarking of these instruments in operational programmes.

The report also:

- demanded that the bottom-up approach in the context of ITI be **formalised** in the next generation of cohesion policy during the programming as well as the implementation phase;
- encouraged the Commission and the Member States, through coordination with the competent local authorities, to **monitor the use of ITI funds**;
- insisted on improved **coordination** between the Commission, the Member States and the regions with regard to guidance for these tools.

New territorial development tools in the cohesion policy 2014-2020: integrated territorial investment (ITI) and community-led local development (CLLD)

2015/2224(INI) - 10/05/2016 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 595 votes to 63, with 13 abstentions, a resolution on the new territorial development tools in cohesion policy 2014-2020: Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) and Community-Led Local Development (CLLD).

Members recalled that the CLLD and ITI are **innovative instruments** in cohesion policy and that the new ITI and the CLLD initiatives represent step changes in the ability of local stakeholders to combine funding streams and plan well-targeted local initiatives.

- **CLLD** is a new tool for use at sub-regional level. It is based on the LEADER experience of community-led local development and is based on a bottom-up approach: it aims to strengthen synergies between local actors, both public and private.
- **ITI** will help implement integrated territorial strategies as it allows bundling of funding from several priority axes of one or more operational programmes. ITIs can be used for delivering the sustainable urban development objective, but can be also aimed at other types of territory.

General considerations: Parliament noted that **tangible involvement of regional and local actors from the outset**, their commitment and ownership of territorial development strategies and proper delegation of responsibilities and resources to lower levels of decision-making are crucial for the success of the bottom-up approach. However, it stressed that local actors require **technical and financial support** from the regional, national and EU levels, especially in the early stages of the implementation process.

The resolution called for the need to:

- **set out strategies** at the initial stages of the implementation process in collaboration with regional and local actors, particularly at the level of specific and specialist training, and of technical and financial support, in the context of an effective partnership between the regions, Member States and EU;
- **promote the sub-delegation of competences and resources**, within the framework of European Structural and Investment Funds and provide **recommendations and comprehensive guidelines** to Member States on how to overcome the lack of trust and administrative obstacles between the different levels of governance related to the implementation of CLLD and ITI.

Actions taken under these tools, while taking into account the priorities of local actors, need to be **aligned with the overarching objectives of the operational programmes** as well as with other EU, national, regional and local development strategies and smart specialisation strategies, while allowing for margins of flexibility.

Priorities: Parliament recommended that local and regional authorities pay particular attention to projects aimed at adapting localities and regions to the new demographic reality and counteracting the imbalances resulting therefrom, particularly through:

- the adaptation of social and mobility infrastructures to demographic change and migratory flows;
- the creation of specific goods and services aimed at an ageing population;
- support for job opportunities for older people, women and migrants that contribute to social inclusion;
- enhanced digital connections and the creation of platforms that enable and foster the participation and interaction of the citizens of the more isolated regions with the various administrative, social and political services of authorities at all levels (local, regional, national and European).

Moreover, Parliament stressed that **youth unemployment and the SMEs lack of financing** should be addressed in the local and territorial development strategies as one of their priorities.

Members encouraged the Member States to use these instruments on projects to: (i) create high-quality jobs and opportunities for SMEs, (ii) promote investment, sustainable and inclusive growth, and social investment and to (iii) contribute to poverty reduction and social inclusion, especially in those regions and sub-regions where it is most needed. They pointed out in this regard the importance of **integrated funding**, and especially the **combination of ESF and ERDF**. They pointed to the potential of **reinvesting parts of local taxes** in performance-oriented activities and called on the Commission to develop a **special investment strategy**, in line with the Social Investment Package, which could benefit regions with the highest unemployment rates.

The resolution port also stressed that the integration of multiple funds continues to be a **challenge for stakeholders**, particularly in the context of CLLD and ITI. It considered that **simplification** efforts are necessary and it invited the Commission and the Member States to provide **additional support, training and guidance** to smaller and less developed localities which have more limited resources and capacity and for which the administrative burden and complexity related to these tools may be difficult to take on during planning and implementation.

The Commission is urged to implement regulations covering **CLLD and ITI funding** from the European Structural and Investment Funds as a whole in order to strengthen synergies.

Community-led local development (CLLD): Parliament stated that this instrument offers possibilities for urban and peri-urban areas and should be an integral part of wider urban development strategies, including through cross-border cooperation. It encouraged capacity-building, awareness-raising among social and economic partners, as well as civil society stakeholders, and the active participation of those parties, so that as many partners as possible can propose CLLD strategies. It recalled that the ESF Regulation allows for a specific investment priority on ‘community-led local development strategies’ under Thematic Objective 9, and encouraged the Member States to include this in their operational programmes.

The Commission and the Member States are called upon to encourage the **sharing of best practices,** embrace the CLLD initiatives and to provide more flexibility in the operational programmes and in the context of regional, national and EU policy frameworks.

Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI): Parliament stressed that ITI should not be restricted to urban areas only, but may concern geographical areas such as **urban neighbourhoods, metropolitan areas, urban-rural, sub-regional or cross-border**. It considered that ITI also provides for an appropriate structure to tackle territories with poor access to services, and isolated and disadvantaged communities.

Members encouraged the Member States to opt for a **multi-fund approach to ITIs** in order to achieve synergies between the funds in a given territory and to tackle challenges in a more comprehensive manner.

Future recommendations: Members are of the opinion that that CLLD and ITI should **play an even more important role in the future cohesion policy**. They called on the Commission to prepare a report to analyse the impact and effectiveness of CLLD and ITI and whether a compulsory approach in the post-2020 cohesion policy legislation concerning these instruments would be desirable, providing for earmarking of these instruments in operational programmes.

Parliament also:

- demanded that the bottom-up approach in the context of ITI be **formalised** in the next generation of cohesion policy during the programming as well as the implementation phase;
- encouraged the Commission and the Member States, through coordination with the competent local authorities, to **monitor the use of ITI funds**;
- insisted on improved **coordination** between the Commission, the Member States and the regions with regard to guidance for these tools.

Lastly, the resolution recommended that guidance be developed simultaneously with the proposal on the new cohesion policy legislation for the programming period after 2020.