



# Everyday Cohesion

**Communicating the EU Cohesion policy  
to citizens**

## **INVITATION**

**Project coordinator**  
European House Budapest

### **About European House Budapest**

European House (EH) is a Budapest-based pro-European civil society organisation set up in 1990. Its main objective is to develop active European citizenship and identity based on shared values, foster EU ownership among citizens and promote participatory democracy. EH is an active player on European level: it promotes awareness-raising debates, contributes to EU agenda setting and fosters civic engagement. EH seeks to contribute to the creation of an active, strong, and influential civil society both in HU and Europe using synergies. EH promotes contacts and interactions among CSOs of the four EU macro-regions thereby contributing to shaping and implementing EU macro-regional strategies. A civil pillar of this process is being developed (a proposal for a macro-regional civil strategy) together with the setting up of a network.

### **Project background**

In a rapidly changing world, under the current uncertain and challenging conditions Cohesion policy is and remains one of the cornerstones of EU policy-making. Its success is key to implement EU's political priorities especially in the field of a European Green Deal and Digital Europe leading to a smarter and fairer Europe.

From a public perspective Cohesion policy is an area where the EU's impact on daily life of millions of citizens can be manifested and measured. This is especially true in case of those who live in rural or remote areas.

The 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework brings a new perspective into the Cohesion policy arena with new priorities, targets and set of measures. To make it happen the current project builds on the 9th Cohesion Report prepared by the European Commission and to be released in March 2024.

### **Project countries**

The project involves nine EU regions, carefully selected based on development categories of the 8th Cohesion Report. Our target group is primarily composed of practising journalists working for local and regional media in 4 net contributing (Denmark, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands) and 5 Cohesion Fund net beneficiary Member States (Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia).

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### GEOGRAPHICAL PRESENTATION OF PROJECT COUNTRIES



#### Net contributor Member States/Regions

Denmark	Southern Denmark
Germany	Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
Italy	Sicily
The Netherlands	North Holland

#### Net beneficiary Member States/Regions

Bulgaria	Ruse
Croatia	Baranja
Hungary	Közép-Dunántúl
Romania	Muntenia
Slovakia	Nitra

During the preparatory process of this project European House made a preliminary investigation in the selected regions of the project countries with the aim to see to what extent Cohesion policy developments are addressed in the local/regional media.

In case of the net contributing Member States the noticeable characteristic feature was the mention of corruption/misuse of funds in the recipient/beneficiary Member States. This phenomenon is considered as a serious stumbling block in the process of overcoming disparities between contributors and beneficiaries.

We also noticed two identical features in the regions of the nine project countries: (1) lack of easy-to-read and use information materials in local and regional media on Cohesion policy issues and (2) complete lack of knowledge of the existence of the Cohesion Report, a flagship document of the Commission relevant to the project.

In case of the beneficiary countries a common characteristic feature was that the European aspect of the Cohesion Funds used was very rarely mentioned; instead, it was put into a national/regional political context emphasising the important role of local decision-makers in securing the applied financial support. Practically no mention was made of the democratic decision-making process, of the “bottom-up” approach voicing citizens’ concerns and proposals leading to a successful broadly based application. Lack of knowledge on the European nature of the Cohesion policy and Funds can easily lead to a reserved attitude or mistrust in the EU institutions generally labelled as the bureaucratic “Brussels”.

## Participants

Participants of the project are practising journalists working for local and regional media (printed or digital) in 4 net contributing (DK, DE, NL and IT) and 5 Cohesion Fund beneficiary countries (BG, HU, HR, RO and SK).

## Timetable of field visits

### Cohesion Field Visit 1

**03-12 September 2024**

Participants

2 persons/country from 4 net contributor Member States: DE, DK, NL and IT accompanied by 2 persons from European House Budapest

Tuesday, 03/09/2024

Arrivals to Budapest; departure by minibus to Komárom (HU); visits to Komarno (SK) and Nove Zamky (SK)

Thursday, 05/09/2024

Departure by minibus via Budapest to Osijek (HR) and Vukovar (HR)

Saturday, 07/09/2024

Return to Budapest

Sunday, 08/09/2024

Flight from Budapest to Bucharest

Monday-Wednesday, 09-11/09/2024

Visits to Giurgiu (RO) and Ruse (BG)

Thursday, 12/09/2024

Return home from Bucharest

### Cohesion Field Visit 2

**08-16 October 2024**

Participants

2 persons/country from 5 net beneficiary Member States: BG, HR, HU, RO and SK accompanied by 2 persons from European House Budapest

Tuesday, 08/10/2024

Arrivals to Hamburg (DE); transfer to Schwering (DE) and visits

Thursday-Saturday, 10-12/10/2024

Travel to and programmes in Denmark: Odense/Vejle and its vicinity

Sunday, 13/10/2024

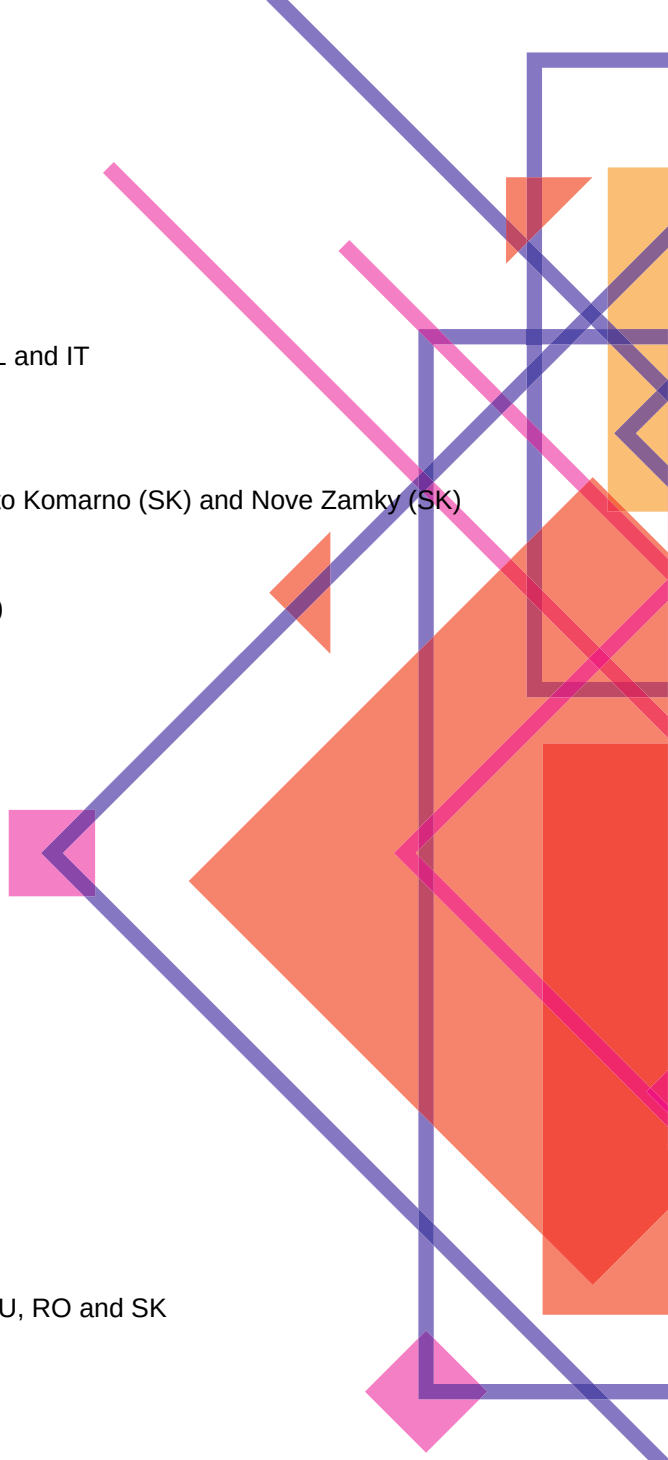
Flight from Billund (DK) to Amsterdam (NL); transfer to Haarlem

Monday-Tuesday, 14-15/10/2024

Visit to Haarlem and its vicinity

Wednesday, 16 October 2024

Return home from Amsterdam



## Timetable of field visits

### Cohesion Field Visit 3 27-29 January 2025

Participants

2 persons/country from 5 net beneficiary Member States: BG, HR, HU, RO and SK accompanied by 2 persons from European House Budapest

Monday, 27/01/2025

Arrival to Palermo/Catania

Monday-Tuesday, 27-28/01/2025

Visits and meetings in Sicily

Wednesday, 29/01/2025

Return home from Palermo/Catania

#### Notes:

1. Please reserve your date(s) in your calendar as they are final; we count on your participation and we plan to buy the flight tickets as early as possible;
2. I would like to count on your friendly advice and assistance in setting up a quality programme when the group visit your place/region;
3. It is expected that you will report on your experience/findings during the field visits in an objective and unbiased manner; we will request you to sign a declaration to this effect;
4. All justified expenses related to your participation in the project will be covered;
5. In order to facilitate our internal communication, we will create a mailing list and a whatsapp group. Do not be surprised receiving separate messages for this.

#### What we expect from interested journalists

- participate at the Cohesion field visit(s);
- produce at least 2 articles/videos/radio spots in local/regional media for each visited location.

All justified expenses related to project activities are covered (travel, accommodation, subsistence costs and other related expenses).

#### More information

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