



BRUSSELS, 18 APRIL 2023

**2ND FORUM FOR MANAGING AUTHORITIES
BUILDING ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY**
2021 - 2027

Building Capacity among Managing Authorities to Better Support Beneficiaries

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Across the EU –
Over **300** Managing Authorities
Over **600 000** beneficiaries
Over **1.8 million** projects

Cohesion Policy funding in 2014-2020 amounted to **EUR 533 billion**, representing **51%** of total public investment across the EU.

In 2021-2027, **EUR 504 billion** have been planned, including the new Just Transition Fund.

Source: European Commission (2023), Cohesion Data, <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/>



A key to better beneficiary performance in all EU Member States – Building the MA-beneficiary partnership, beyond an administrative relationship



Beneficiaries and MAs: different perspectives and lenses



Beneficiaries can offer a wealth of insights



MAs sit in a critical juncture but in a “sandwich” position



Create a friendly and trust-based environment in the long-term

What do beneficiaries need?

“It is not easy to write a good project proposal.”

Cross-cutting investment capacity

“We are not public administration. As a small company, we don't have a dedicated team for EU fund application.”

Differentiated needs

“We need to learn about net-zero, circular economy, social innovation, and many other things.”

Continuously learning and building institutional memory

“We do not have experience working with companies or NGOs, or even other municipalities.”

Integrated, collaborative, and/or strategic projects

“We don't always get the answers to our questions in time.” / “We don't have time to go to trainings.”

Effective and diverse forms of support

“Public procurement is too complex, and we have difficulties in securing co-finance.”

Structural capacity gaps beyond EU funds

What do MAs need?

Better understand diverse and evolving beneficiary needs

- Stakeholder mapping
- Get to know your beneficiaries
- Tailored forms of communication and support
- Regular assessment and adaptation

Optimise resources and be innovative in how support is offered

- Address common issues (overall and by groups)
- Partner with other organisations
- Make use of different channels and tools (e.g., online platforms)

Be more outcome-oriented in beneficiary support and communication

- Properly “marketing” the activities to attract beneficiaries
- Better communicate with beneficiaries, including strengthening dialogue
- Monitor and assess outcomes of beneficiary support and engagement

44%

of Forum participants considered "providing tailored and targeted support to different groups of beneficiaries" challenging



Moving forward, building partnerships is a two-way endeavour

**...an EC-OECD pilot project: Working with Managing Authorities to
Build Beneficiary Capacity for Stronger EU Funds Investment**

Stay tuned for an upcoming call for expression of interest.



European
Commission



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Thank you!

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