



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY  
Policy  
Policy Development and Economic analysis

Brussels, 15 January 2024

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

**Subject: Request for cooperation concerning a study “Assessment of administrative costs and administrative burden in the management of the Common Provisions Regulation Funds 2021-2027”**

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission has launched a study aimed at assessing administrative costs and burden related to the management of the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) Funds 2021-2027 (European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund+, Cohesion Fund, Just Transition Fund, European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy). The study will provide the analytical basis for the debate on the design of the policy post-2027 and the related impact assessments.

The study contract has been awarded to an international consortium led by Ramboll Management Consulting, in cooperation with Ismeri Europa, Forefront Oy and a wide network of national experts.

The overall objective of the study is to carry out a comprehensive revision of the baselines for administrative costs and burden of the CPR Funds for which such baselines exist, based on datasets as complete and coherent as possible between Funds, and to establish such baselines where they do not exist (the Just Transition Fund, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy). It will assess whether previous estimates have materialised in the period 2021-2027 and analyse the impact of the simplification measures already adopted in the CPR. In order to assess in an objective manner the management costs as stemming directly from the CPR requirements, the study also aims at quantifying the gold plating instances while identifying cases of best practice. The results will be applied for the preparation of new proposals and options regarding post-2027 funds. The final report of the study is expected by the end of 2024 and will be published on the website of the European Commission.

The data on administrative costs and burdens will be collected through surveys and interviews. The surveys will be sent to all the relevant programme bodies and national coordination institutions in all 27 Member States. The questionnaire will examine staff costs and count across the various stages of programme implementation, as well as overhead and external costs. In addition, group interviews with a sample of 90 programmes

will be held to collect data on administrative costs, simplification options, gold-plating and digitalisation of procedures. Data on administrative burden will be collected through interviews from a representative sample of around 300 beneficiaries and 50 final recipients of financial instruments.

Therefore, I would very much appreciate, if you could, please, facilitate the work of the contractors, in particular when they contact you for participation in the survey or with regard to an interview request. Your contribution will be particularly helpful and contribute to further simplifying the delivery mechanism of cohesion policy and better target the support needed for technical assistance.

For further information, you may wish to contact Ms Aurélie Louguet ([admincoststudy@ramboll.com](mailto:admincoststudy@ramboll.com)) who is the leader of the consortium entrusted with this study, or Mr Florent Guérin ([Florent.Guerin@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Florent.Guerin@ec.europa.eu)) who is in charge of this file in my unit.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance regarding this study.

Yours sincerely

“e-signed”

Anna Wagner  
Head of Unit