Brussels, regio.b.2(2023)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Subject: Work Package 12: Crisis response - ex post study of Cohesion policy

programmes 2014-2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission launched an expost study of cohesion policy crisis response in the period 2014-2020.

The evaluation, which started in November 2023 is to take 13 months and complements the work packages of the ex post evaluation of the period 2014-2020. It will take stock of the different types of crisis response instruments co-financed by the ERDF/CF in the 2014-2020 period, assess their rationale and investigate the factors that has contributed to their success or failure.

The contract has been awarded to a consortium consisting of Spatial Foresight, t33 srl, ÖIR GmbH, and Wiiw. These companies have extensive experience in working with evaluation and are securely bound by confidentiality agreements.

The consultants will be collecting data at different levels in a structured format, relying on publicly available databases or portals, to the extent possible. In some cases, the collaboration the Managing Authority or other implementing body holding the data will be necessary. Interviews with experts and stakeholders to produce case studies are foreseen, too.

More details on the scope of the study can be found in its Specification available at: <u>eTendering - Crisis response study</u>

Access to relevant actors, data, information and experience is vital for the success of this study. I would therefore very much appreciate if you could facilitate the work of consultants, in particular when they contact you with regard to the collection of information or for an interview request. The consultants have access to the data held at EU level and they will target their requests for information and interviews in a way to minimise the burden on you. The production of a high quality report, which can be of use both for the Commission and the Member States, could critically depend on your kind contribution.

If you have any further questions, please contact: Viktoria BOLLA or Lucian LUCA, Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy, Evaluation and European Semester Unit, BRU-CSM1 08/DCS, Brussels (email: viktoria.bolla@ec.europa.eu, lucian.luca@ec.europa.eu).

Yours sincerely,

(e-Signed)

Ana PIRES

Head of Unit