



Portugal

Integrated instruments

Both ITI and CLLD are implemented within the framework of ten regional operational programs, where the managing authorities are so-called regional agencies, which are, however, centrally managed and are part of the state administration. In terms of allocation, the most important instrument is the ITI (EUR 1 045 million), followed by the SUD (EUR 796 million) and the CLLD (EUR 280 million).

ERDF, ESF, EAFRD and EMFF funds are used for integrated instruments. In total, 88 local action groups (rural, fishing and urban) and 23 ITIs (which are implemented by so-called interregional entities at NUTS III level) are supported.



Positive aspects

- ▶ Strengthening local partnerships
- ▶ Increasing the involvement of private actors in cooperation
- ▶ Using a single IT system
- ▶ Strengthening the capacities and competencies of local authorities

Negative aspects

- ▶ Highly centralized public administration
- ▶ Insufficient willingness of local authorities to cooperate
- ▶ Lack of experience with a combination of multiple funds
- ▶ Lack of experience with CLLD in urban areas

Key aspects of the integrated instruments

1

Strengthening local partnerships

Through the implementation of integrated instruments, the involvement of local actors, not only local authorities, but also small and medium-sized enterprises, was strengthened.

2

Highly centralized public administration

The specificity of Portugal is the significant centralization of public administration. Apart from municipalities and central governments, there are no autonomous regions. Hence, integrated instruments to some extent compensate for this centrality.

3

Unified IT system

A unified IT system enables to identify potential overlaps between individual integrated tools, making it easier for MAs to approve and control projects.

4

Reluctance to cooperate

A key issue is the lack of willingness of local authorities and other actors to cooperate. Collaboration between cities does not work so well because cities actually compete with each other for the projects.



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