

Evaluation of the Cohesion policy in 2021-2027

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Performance, monitoring and evaluation

What's new?

- Simplified programming architecture
- Performance framework restructured
- Enhanced indicator and categorisation system
- Open data to follow progress every 3 months
- EC to finalise Mid-term evaluation in 2025

What's gone?

- Performance reserve
- Annual implementation and progress reports for cohesion policy
- Ex-ante evaluation
- Non-direct result indicators

2021-2027 Evaluation elements

- ✓ Draft programmes to set out lessons learned, i.e. from 2014-20 monitoring and evaluation (no obligation for ex-ante evaluation)
- ✓ Obligation maintained for evaluation plans by Member State or programme, covering design, implementation and impact
- ✓ Commission mid-term evaluation by 12/2024 in advance of mid-term review
- ✓ Obligation on MS or programme to carry out evaluations throughout the period + impact evaluation by 06/2029
- ✓ Commission retrospective evaluation by 12/2031
- ✓ Evaluation criteria to be covered was extended to BR guidelines criteria (effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and EU added value, and possibly other criteria, where useful).

Overview of SWD on Perf. Monitoring and Evaluation

SWD objective: to provide clarity on provisions on

- Evaluation
- Programming, monitoring using common and specific indicators
- Categorisation system

Publication:

SWD + Annexes in PDF:

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/evaluations/guidance/#1

SWD on Performance Monitoring and Evaluation 2021-2027

- The evaluation text was developed based on experience from the 2014-2020 period; thanks to minor legislative changes (mainly simplification) there is a strong continuity in the approach;
- The document is practical and leaves methodological questions for further discussions in the Eval network of DG REGIO where all MS are represented.
- First challenge is drafting the evaluation plan for the 2021-2027 period.
- However, we still need to complete the evaluation of the 2014-2020 implementation.

Evaluation of Cohesion policy, lessons learned

- Over the past 8 years, over 1500 evaluations of cohesion policy were produced in Member States on both present and previous programming periods. Over 400 impact evaluations, the rest mainly monitoring and process.

Some of the lessons learned:

- Focus on better evaluations: Improve eval design/ToRs (fewer, targeted evaluation questions, scope aligned to budget);
- Select the right evaluation methods: Improve the reliability of findings (methods fit questions, evidence vs conclusions, use of more rigorous evaluation methods);
- Broaden the use of data: anticipate, make arrangements for collection at the beginning of the intervention;
- Build and maintain evaluation capacity.

Evaluation of Cohesion policy, lessons learned

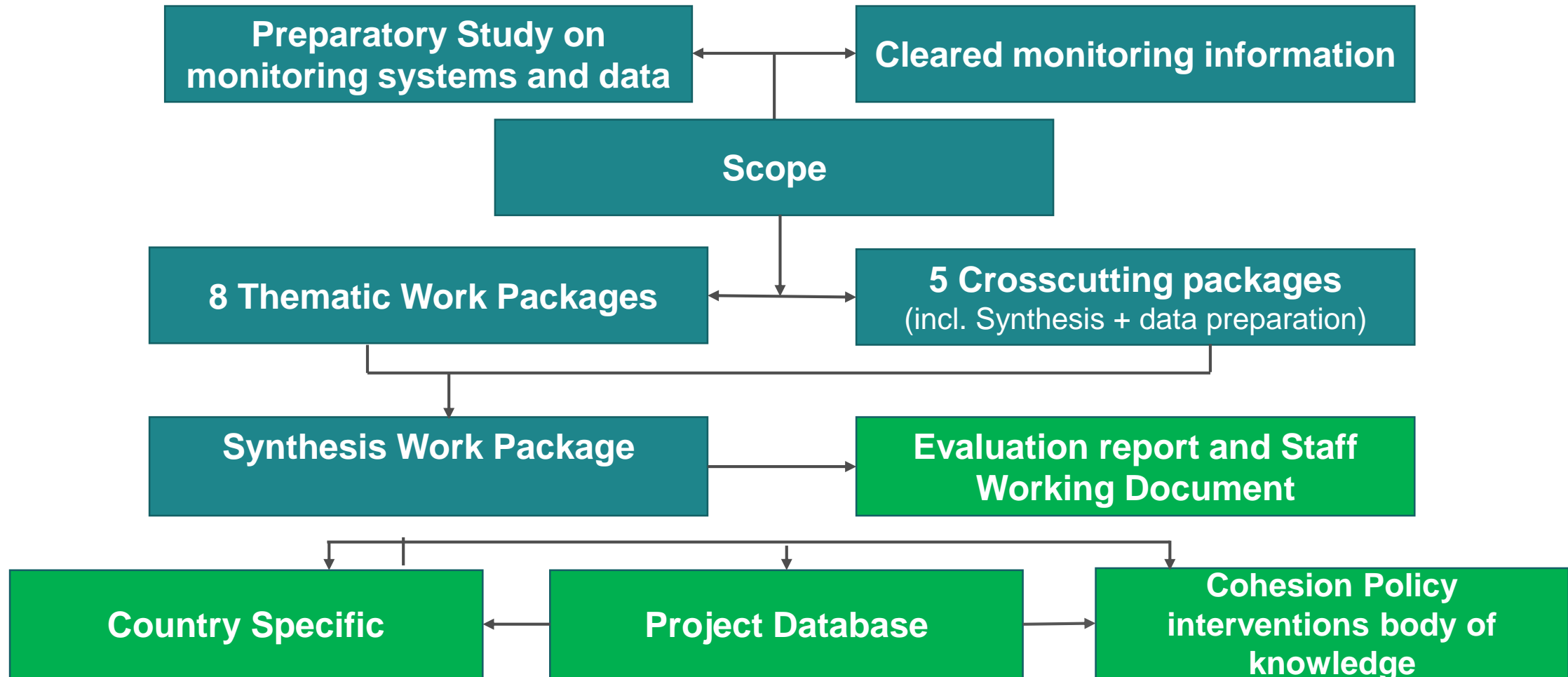
Some of the lessons learned regarding planning:

- Design a feasible evaluation framework,
- Body of policy evidence;
- Clarify the objectives of evaluation;
- Budget planning;
- Visibility.

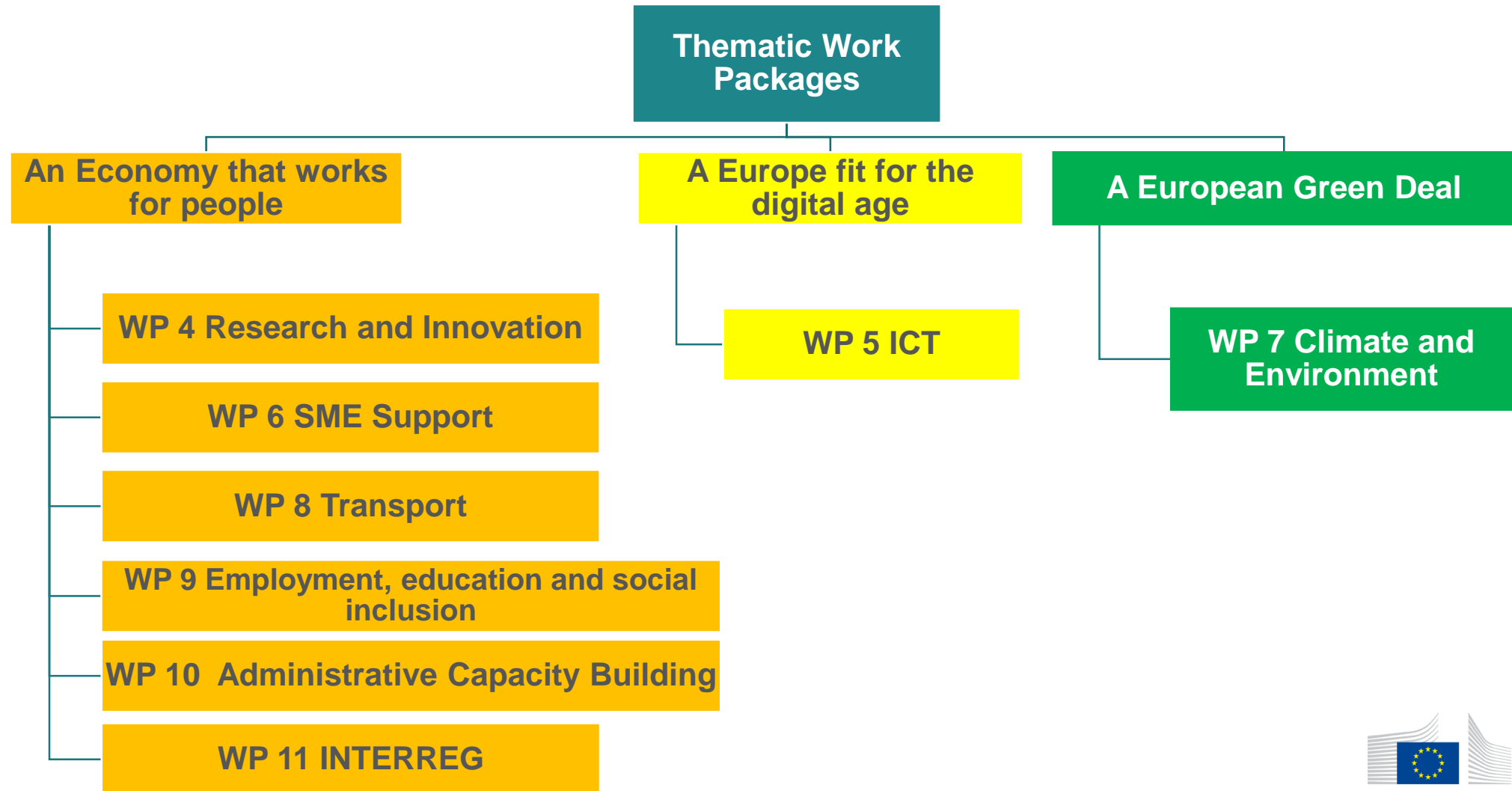
Upcoming developments -Ex-post evaluation 2014-2020

- Under preparation.
- 13 work packages mix of cross-cutting and thematic packages.
- Tenders published between end-2021 and mid-2022.
- Finalised: end-2024.

Ex-post evaluation 2014-2020 structure



Ex-post evaluation 2014-2020 structure



Cross cutting packages

**WP1
Synthesis**

**WP2
Preparatory
Study (ongoing)**

**WP3 Effects of
Funding and
Context**

**WP12 Crisis
response**

**WP13 Territorial
Instruments
study**

Thank you



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