

# COHESION POLICIES IN ITALY



# COHESION POLICIES: WHAT ARE THEY, AND WHAT IS THEIR PURPOSE?



## COHESION POLICIES: WHAT ARE THEY, AND WHAT IS THEIR PURPOSE





#### COHESION POLICIES: WHAT ARE THEY, AND WHAT IS THEIR PURPOSE

Cohesion policies are investment strategies that fund programs and individual projects with the aim of "making a positive change" by reducing disparities between territories.



by OlsenWeb www.flickr.com

The objective of cohesion policies is:

- to improve the living environment of people;
- to acquire more skills and disseminate capabilities;
- **to enhance** the productive environment in which businesses operate;
- **to support** specific private and public projects that create job opportunities and income.

**Cohesion policies** primarily operate where ordinary policies cannot or do not succeed in reaching.



#### COHESION POLICIES: WHAT ARE THEY, AND WHAT IS THEIR PURPOSE

## **COHESION IS...**

...promoting, at both the national and European levels, harmonious development among regions to strengthen territorial communities economically and socially, particularly by reducing the gap in development levels among different regions.



# WHAT DISTINGUISHES COHESION POLICIES FROM ORDINARY ONES?



#### **COHESION POLICIES: DIFFERENCE FROM ORDINARY POLICIES**

#### INTENTIONALITY OF TERRITORIAL OBJECTIVE

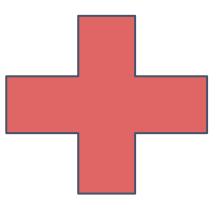
What does it mean?



Cohesion policy is **intentionally** aimed at ensuring that the objectives of competitiveness are achieved by **all regional territories**, especially those experiencing economic and social imbalances.

#### **ADDITIONALITY AND SUPPLEMENTARITY**

What does it mean?



Cohesion policy is funded by **additional resources** from both the European Union and national sources. Specifically, these funds come from the European budget (structural funds, with a requirement of additionality) and the national budget (national co-financing for structural funds and the Fund for Development and Cohesion).



#### **COHESION POLICIES: DIFFERENCE FROM ORDINARY POLICIES**

# Cohesion policies...

... aim to increase **development opportunities** (growth and social inclusion) for citizens, regardless of where they live.

... are pursued by providing **opportunities for economic growth** and improving the availability and quality of **public services**, considering the specific needs and characteristics of different territories, especially in less developed communities.



#### **COHESION POLICIES: DIFFERENCE FROM ORDINARY POLICIES**

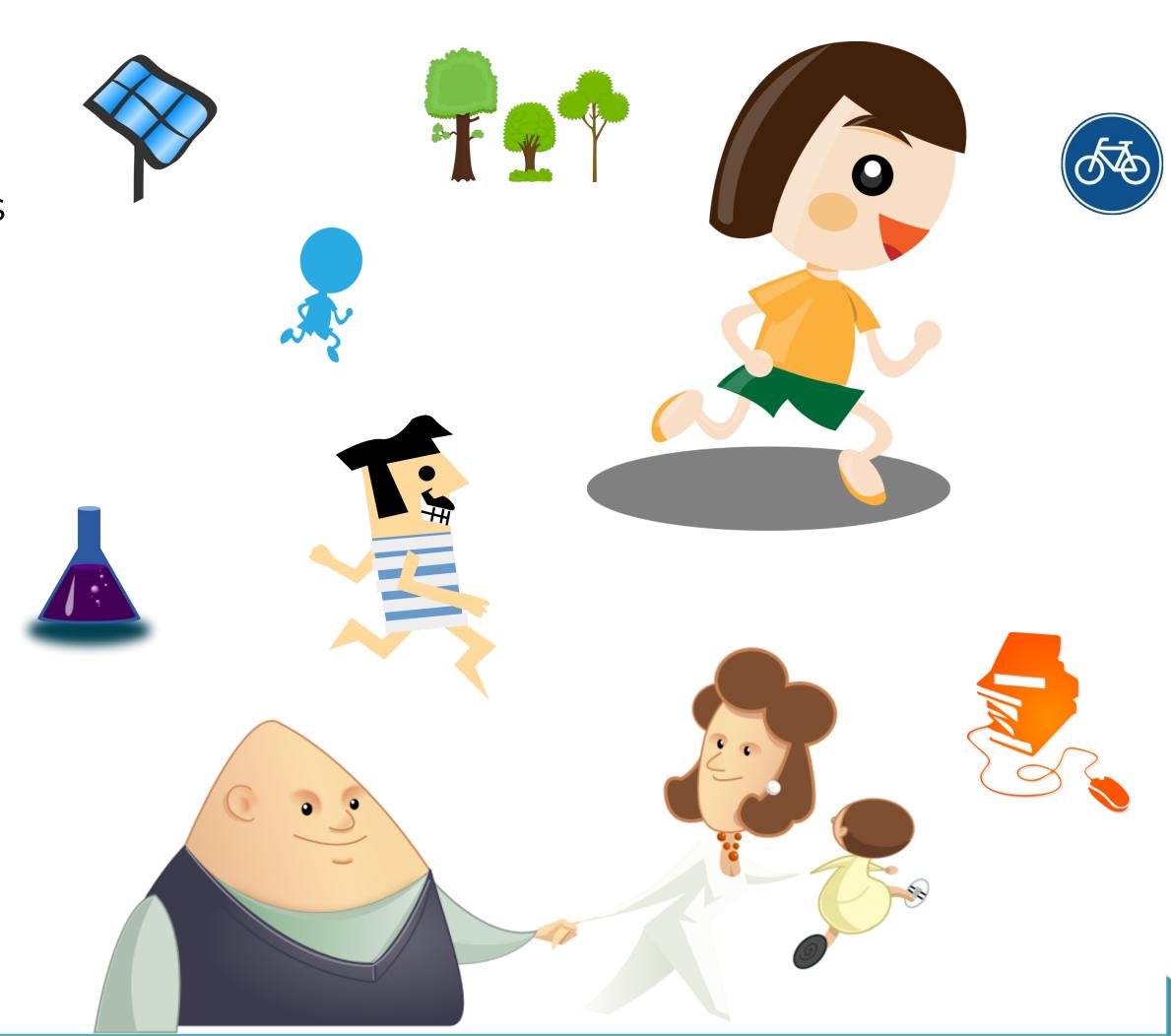
# Cohesion policies...

... are grounded and legitimized by the **Italian Constitution** (Article 119, paragraph 5 – Article 3, paragraph 2) and the **Treaty of Lisbon on the Functioning of the European Union** (Article 174, in force since December 2009). These documents call for "special interventions" to promote "harmonious development" (Treaty) and to "remove economic and social imbalances" (Constitution).



#### **COHESION POLICIES: THEMES OF INTERVENTION**

- Research and Innovation
- Networks and Digital Services
- Enterprises' Competitiveness
- Energy
- Environment
- Culture and Tourism
- Transport and Mobility
- Employment and Labour
- Social Inclusion and Health
- Education and Training
- Administrative Capacity





# HOW MUCH ARE COHESION POLICIES WORTH IN FINANCIAL TERMS? WHO FUNDS THEM?



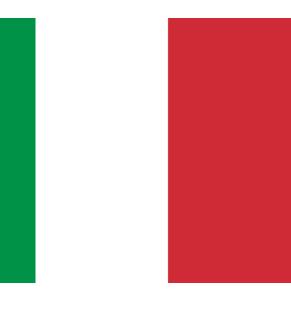
#### **COHESION POLICIES: FINANCIAL SOURCES**



1/3

The European Union allocates approximately one-third of its budget to COHESION, mainly consisting of resources from the **STRUCTURAL FUNDS**, ranging from 350 to approximately 400 billion euros every seven years.

As for Italy, approximately 28 billion euros were allocated to our country for the 2007-2013 period. In the subsequent cycle of 2014-2020, 44 billion euros were earmarked. In the current period, 2021-2027, the EU funds allocated to Italy amount to around 42 billion euros.



The national resources invested in cohesion policies over the three programming cycles amount to approximately **240 billion euros**, including the Development and Cohesion Fund and the mandatory national co-financing of EU Programs.

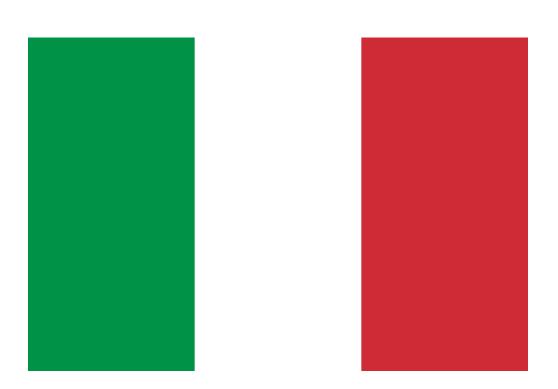
The total volume of resources planned by **cohesion policies in Italy** comprises both European and national funds. The sum, which was just over 74 billion euros in the 2007-2013 cycle, increased to around 137 billion euros in the 2014-2020 period and almost 150 billion euros in the 2021-2027 cycle.



#### **COHESION POLICIES: FINANCIAL SOURCES**



Programming occurs every seven years, resulting from negotiations involving the European Commission and member countries. As for Italy, the **Partnership Agreement for 2021-2027** was approved in July 2022, while interventions funded in the 2014-2020 cycle are still ongoing.



National resources allocated to the cohesion policy for implementing "special interventions" in favor of municipalities, provinces, metropolitan cities, and regions are entrusted to the **FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COHESION (FSC)** and other complementary funds, whose endowment is not fixed over time but depends on Parliament's decisions over the years. In addition to these resources, there are those from the national cofinancing of the STRUCTURAL FUNDS.

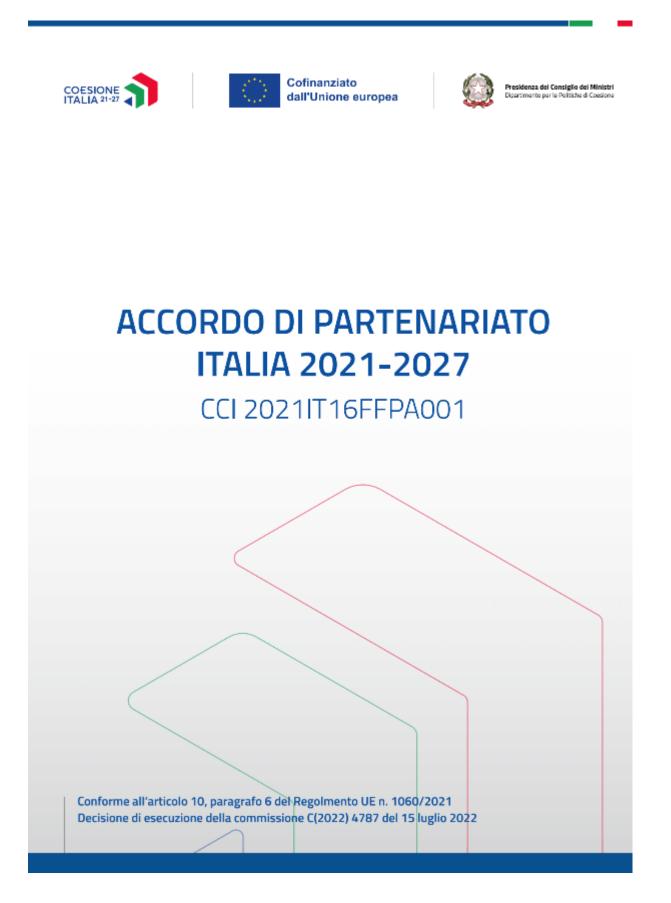


#### **COHESION POLICIES: EUROPEAN PROGRAMS**

The Partnership Agreement, starting from the 2014-2020 cycle, is the document negotiated with the European Commission that outlines the strategic objectives for the country and the structure of the programs necessary to achieve these objectives.

The **European Programs**, renewed within each seven-year programming cycle, are managed by central administrations (e.g., ministries) and regions. They:

- . Define objectives, results, and actions (intervention lines).
- Serve as a general reference framework within which projects are implemented on the territories.
- . Each project contributes to the results of the program.





#### **COHESION POLICIES: EUROPEAN PROGRAMS**

Each programming cycle defines a series of intervention priorities with the aim of achieving the targets set at the European level, within the broader context of adherence to the **UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

Among the elements shaping cohesion policies are the objectives of a climate-neutral economy by 2050, defined within the **European Green Deal**, actions to promote a fair and inclusive society under the **European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan**, and interventions aimed at achieving European goals in providing essential services (such as the presence of childcare facilities in the territory or achieving adequate levels of waste separation in urban sanitation services).

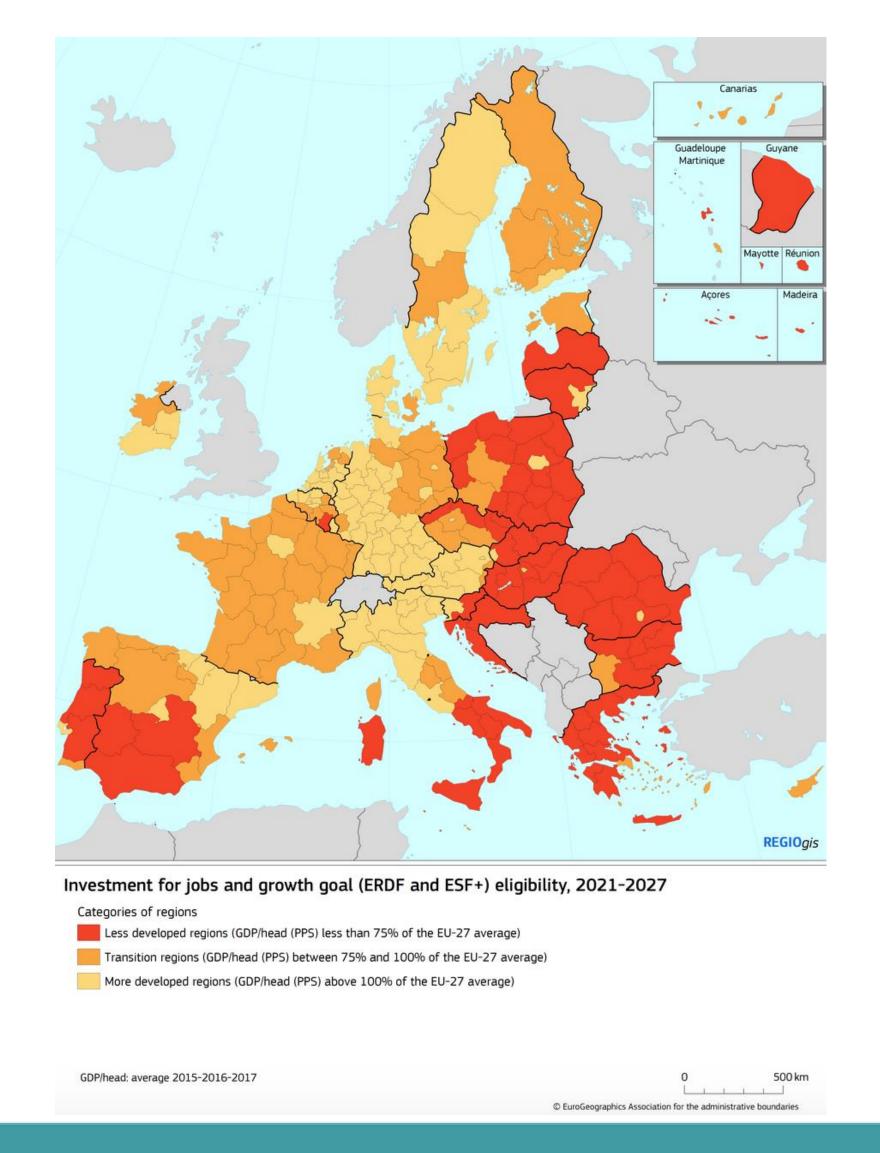


#### **COHESION POLICIES: ALLOCATION OF EUROPEAN RESOURCES**

Cohesion policy covers all regions of the EU. However, the majority of funds are allocated to regions with a per capita gross domestic product (GDP) below 75% of the EU average.

In Italy, concerning the 2021-2027 programming cycle, the less developed regions include the two major islands (**Sicily and Sardinia**) and all the **Southern regions** except for Abruzzo.

These regions receive over 70% of the total allocated European and national resources.





#### **COHESION POLICIES: STRUCTURAL FUNDS**

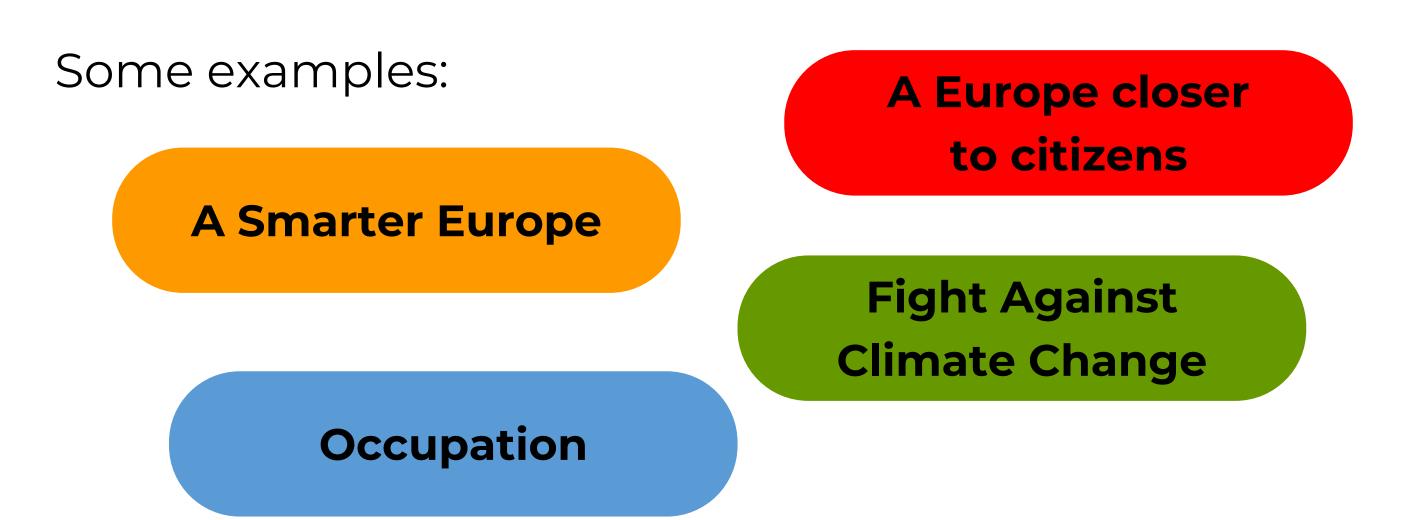
The **European Structural Funds** serve as the instrument through which the overall allocation of community cohesion policy is invested at the territorial level. Each fund finances operational programs that can be structured at the national or regional level. The main funds are the **European Regional Development Fund** (ERDF) and the **European Social Fund** (ESF, which became ESF Plus in the 2021-2027 cycle).

In Italy, resources also come from the **European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund** (EMFAF). Additionally, in the 2021-2027 cycle, the **Just Transition Fund** (JTF) was established.



#### THE OBJECTIVES OF EU COHESION POLICIES

The decision regarding the allocation of resources for each fund responds to specific objectives defined for each programming cycle. Over the years, these have been called **thematic objectives** (2014-2020 programming) or **policy objectives** (2021-2027 cycle). They function as slogans, from which downstream actions are derived during the programming period.

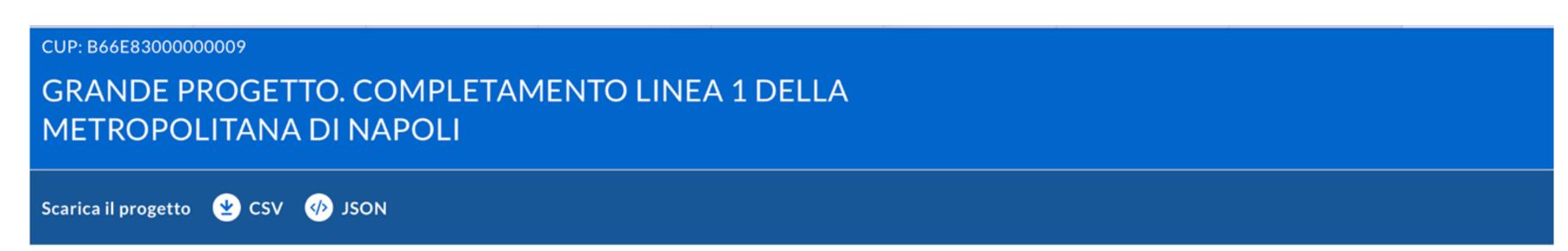




# COHESION POLICY IN THE TERRITORIES: SOME EXAMPLES...



#### **COHESION POLICIES: TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY**

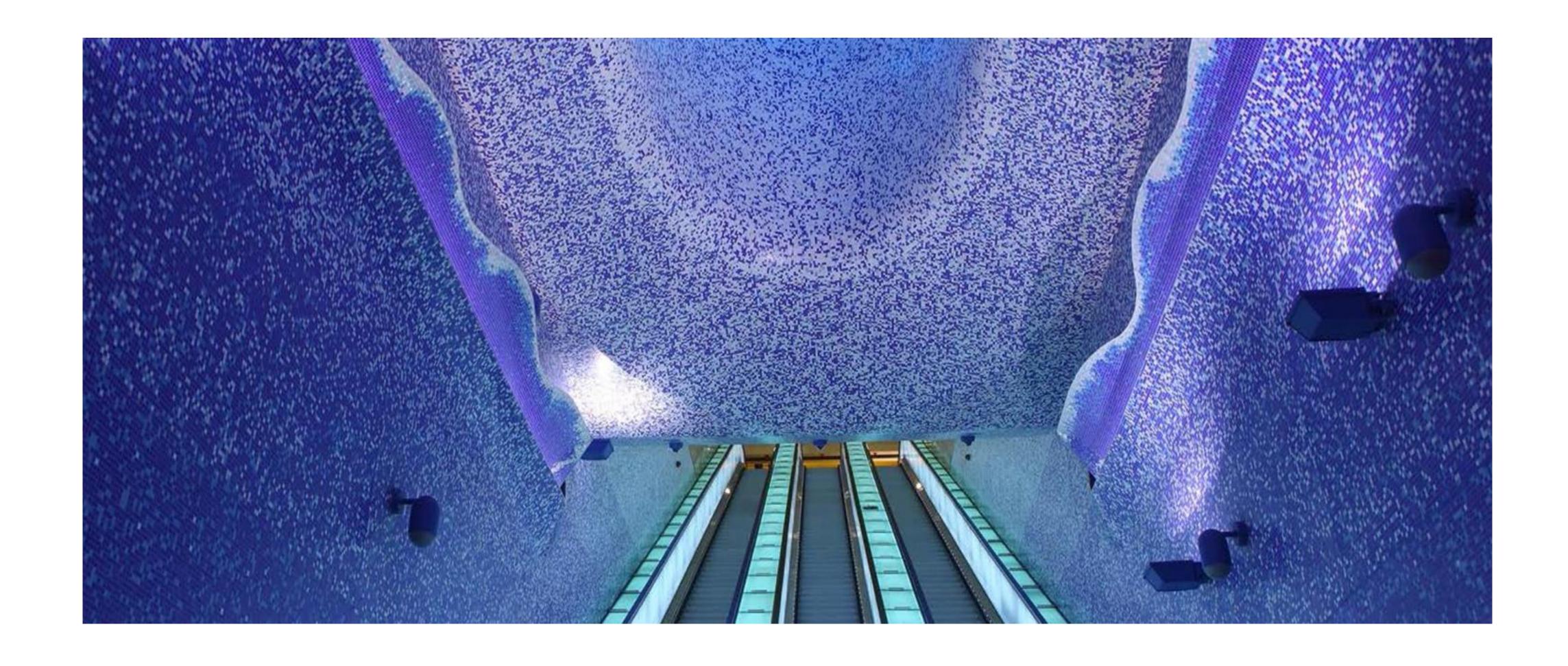


I dati pubblicati sono aggiornati al 30/06/2023





## **COHESION POLICIES: TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY**





#### **COHESION POLICIES: WELFARE AND CITIZENSHIP SERVICES**



I dati pubblicati sono aggiornati al 31/08/2023





#### **COHESION POLICIES: CULTURE**



I dati pubblicati sono aggiornati al 31/08/2023





## **COHESION POLICIES: CULTURE**

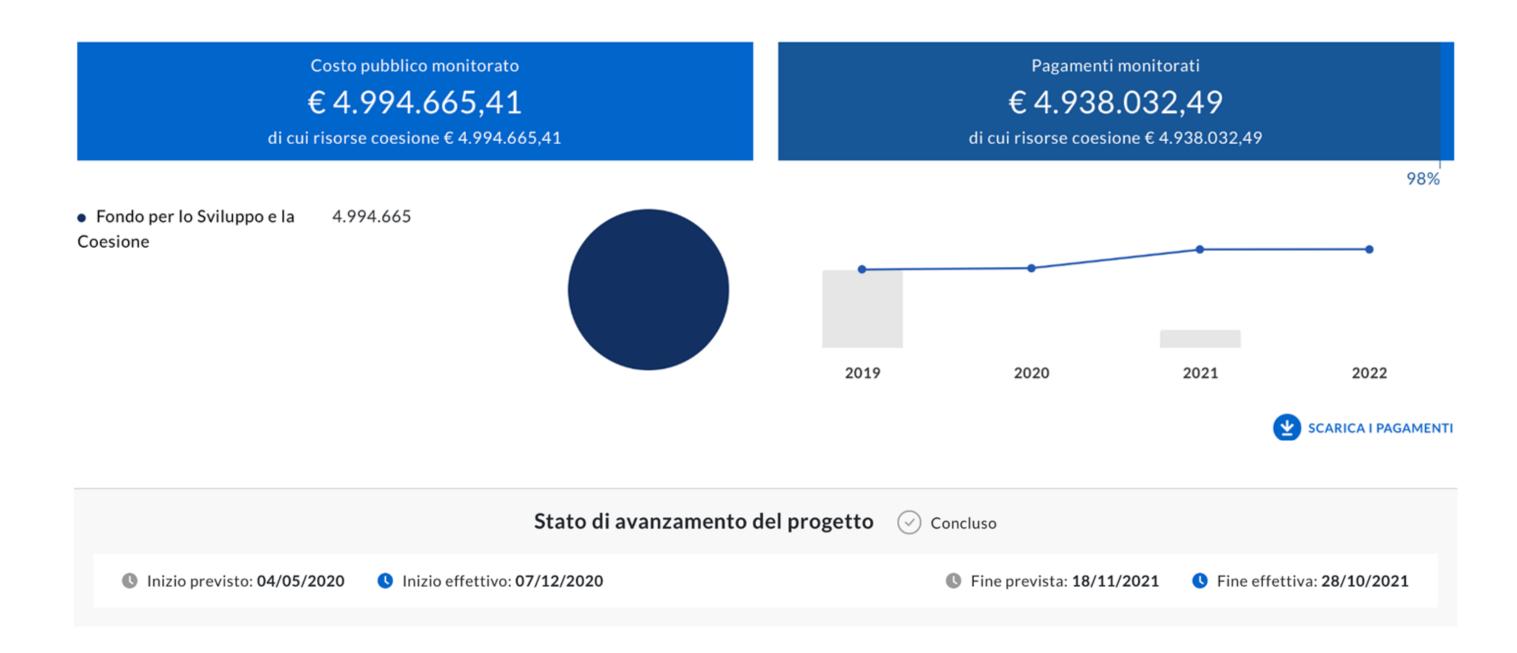




#### **COHESION POLICIES: RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**

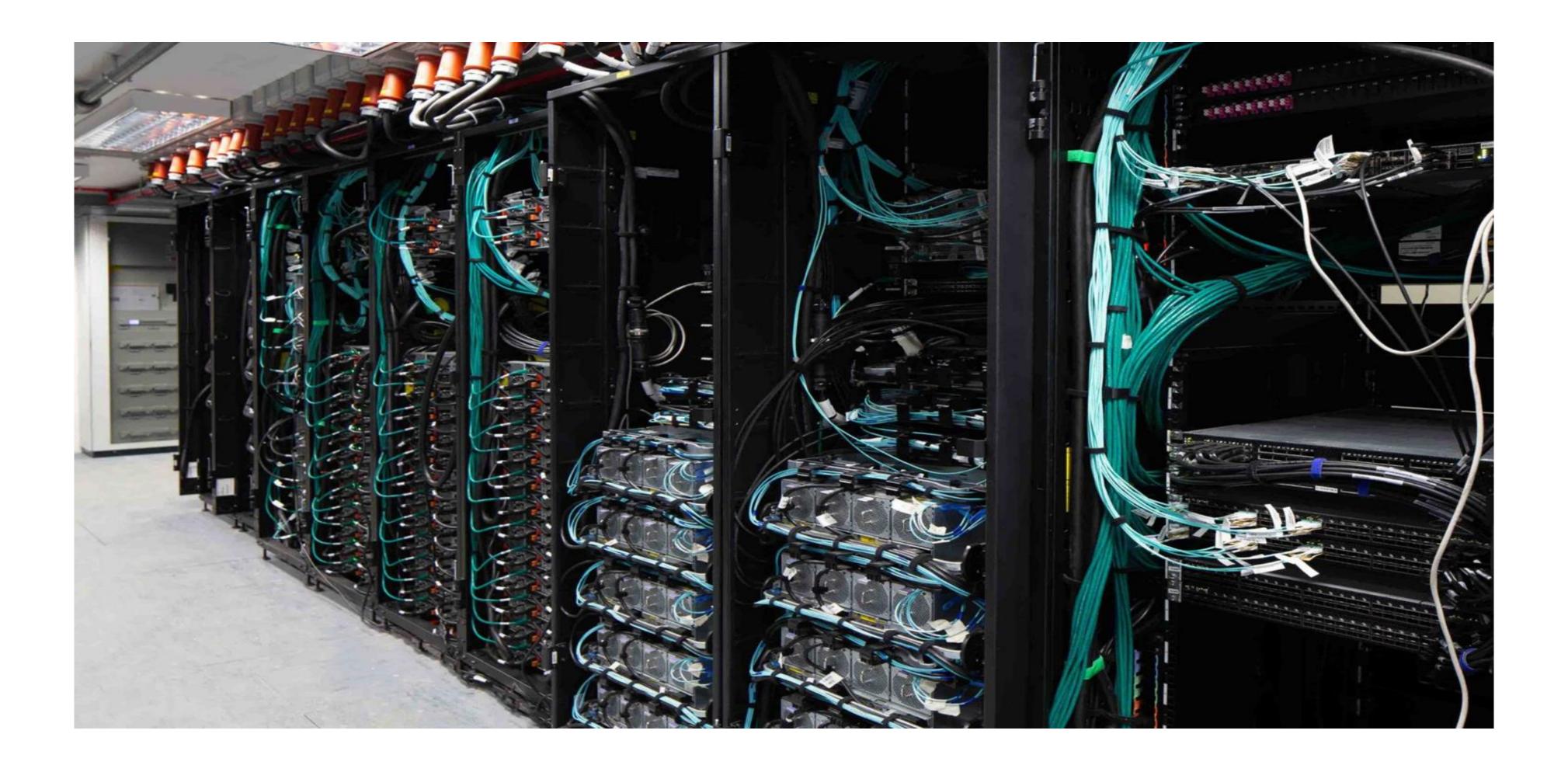


I dati pubblicati sono aggiornati al 31/08/2023





### **COHESION POLICIES: RESEARCH AND INNOVATION**





#### **COHESION POLICIES: ULTRA-BROADBAND NETWORK**





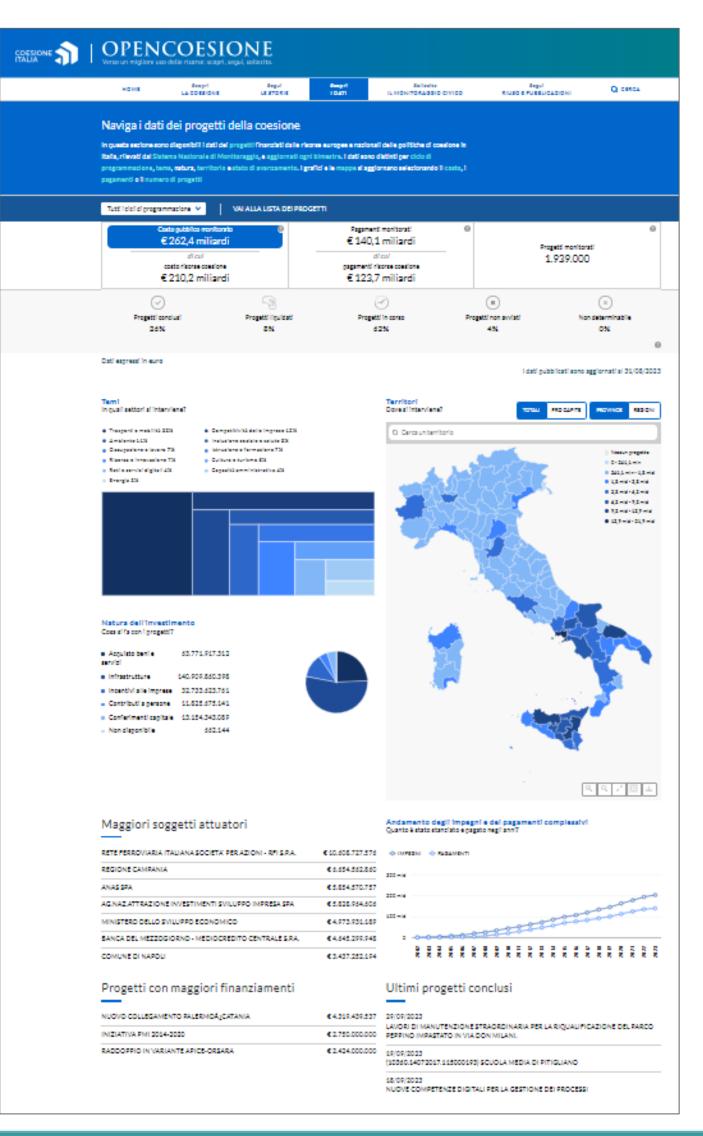




#### HOW DO WE KNOW HOW THESE RESOURCES ARE BEING SPENT?

# opencoesione.gov.it







# COHESION POLICIES IN ITALY







## **Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri** Dipartimento per le Politiche di Coesione

#### In collaborazione con





Progetto attualmente finanziato con il sostegno di



