

— *European Territorial Cooperation 2014-2020*

— Defining the CENTRAL EUROPE 2020 Programme

— Guidance to Stakeholders



EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND

CENTRAL EUROPE 2020



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** DISCLAIMER: The wording of Thematic Objectives and Investment Priorities used in this document and in Annex 1 (Article 5 of the draft ERDF regulation) is for information purposes only and is based on non-official documents. The wording might be subject to changes.*

1. Introduction and background



Aims of this document

To give technical inputs and guidance to the stakeholders contributing to the preparation of the CENTRAL EUROPE 2020 Transnational Programme:

- ✓ by informing on the current background and framework of the CENTRAL EUROPE 2020 Programme;
- ✓ by presenting the strategy and the structure of the Programme.



Inputs from stakeholders are a key source of inspiration for the preparation of the CENTRAL EUROPE 2020 Programme!

1. Introduction and background



Background: CENTRAL EUROPE after 2013

- ✓ The European Commission in 2012 proposed to continue the CENTRAL EUROPE transnational Programme to fund cooperation projects in the eight EU Member States **Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia**, southern and eastern **Germany** and northern **Italy**.

*Ultimately, the programme area might include also the **Republic of Croatia** and/or western regions of **Ukraine**. This will depend on results of negotiations between the European Commission and the concerned countries.*

- ✓ CENTRAL EUROPE 2020 will be **one of the 14 transnational programmes** of the “European Territorial Cooperation” Objective.

The Programme will be co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and will be part of the wider EU Cohesion Policy for the 2014-2020 period, contributing to the achievement of the European targets of Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive growth outlined in the “Europe 2020 Strategy”.

2. The programming process



General principles on programming

In line with the provisions of the draft regulations for the programming period 2014-2020, the preparation of the new programme builds on:

- ✓ **Common challenges** and **shared needs** characterising the whole Programme area;
- ✓ The **potentials** for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth of the central European regions;

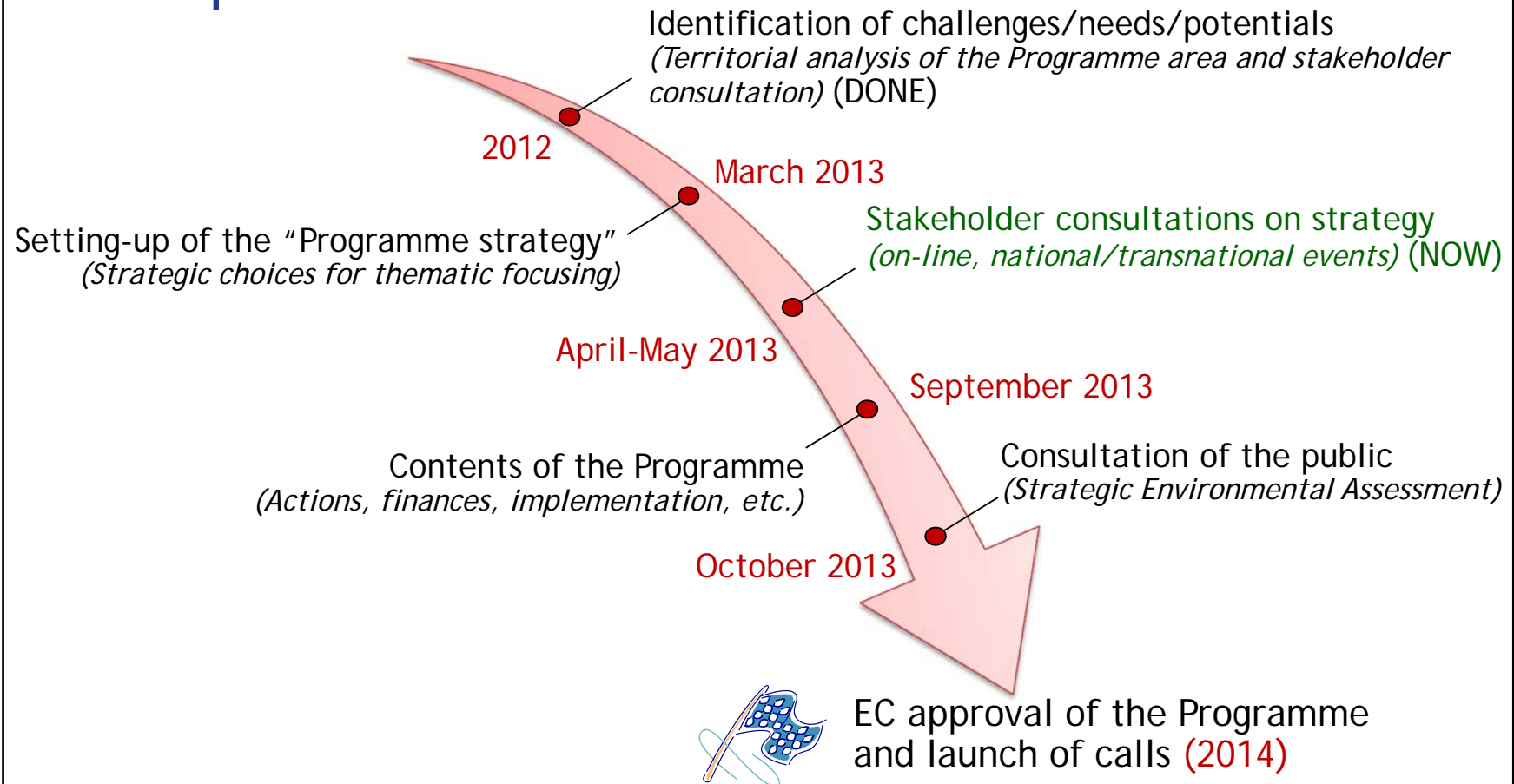
An in-depth territorial analysis was carried out in 2012 also with the involvement of stakeholders. The whole report as well as a summary are available on www.central2013.eu.

- ✓ The **experiences made** and the **lessons learned** in designing and implementing the ongoing CENTRAL EUROPE 2007-2013 Programme.

2. The programming process



The process



2. The programming process



Focus on stakeholders

In line with the draft regulations, the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme seeks feedback from the following stakeholder groups:

- ✓ Competent regional, local, urban and other **public authorities**;
- ✓ **Economic** and **social partners**;
- ✓ Bodies representing **civil society**, including environmental partners, non-governmental organisations and bodies responsible for promoting equality and non-discrimination.

2. The programming process



The role of stakeholders

Stakeholders actively support the preparation of the CENTRAL EUROPE 2020 Programme by:

- ✓ Expressing their needs linked to the challenges of the Programme area (carried out in 2012);
- ✓ Supporting the setting-up of the Programme strategy, providing inputs on topics to be funded by the new Programme (currently on-going);
- ✓ Contributing to the fine tuning of the Programme prior to its submission to the European Commission (planned in October 2013).

3. Programme strategy



Building the Programme strategy

- ✓ The strategy of the CENTRAL EUROPE 2020 Programme is building on those challenges and needs that can be **effectively tackled through transnational cooperation**;
- ✓ The proposed Programme strategy is aligned with the objectives of the **Europe 2020 strategy**;
- ✓ The proposed Programme strategy is framed by the **“Thematic Objectives”** (T.O.) and **“Investment Priorities”** (I.P.) proposed by the European Commission for the 2014-2020 programming period.

3. Programme strategy

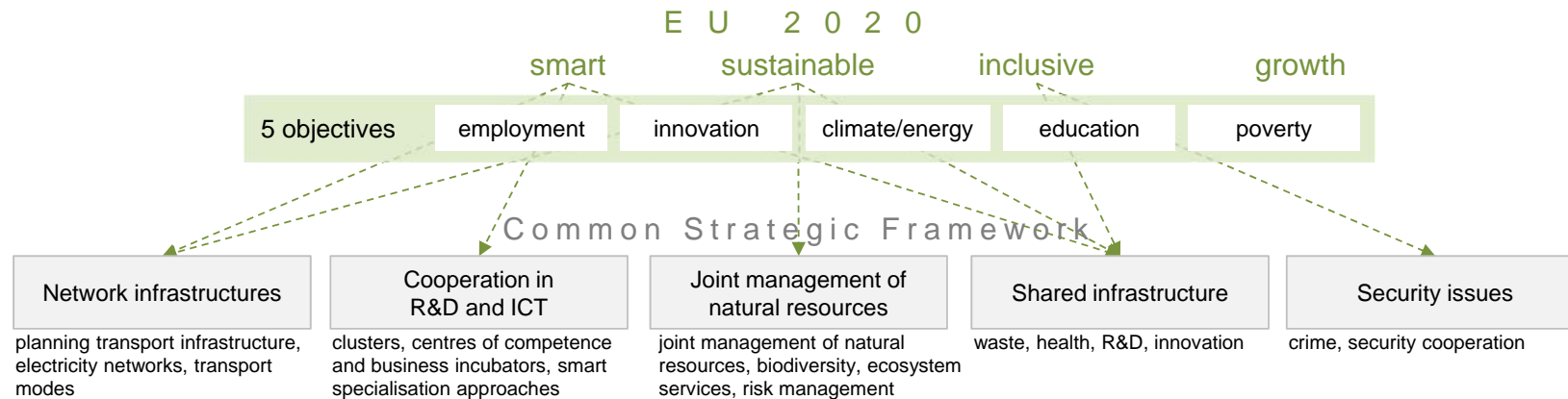


Building the Programme strategy

In line with the draft regulations and guidance from the European Commission, the Programme strategy has to include the following levels:



Objectives tree



Central Europe – Territorial needs

Cooperating to make central European cities and regions a better place to live and work

Priority axis 1: Cooperating on innovation to make CENTRAL EUROPE more competitive

Priority axis 2: Cooperating on energy to lower the carbon footprint in CENTRAL EUROPE

Priority axis 3: Cooperating on natural and cultural heritage for green growth in CENTRAL EUROPE

Priority axis 4: Cooperating on transport to better connect CENTRAL EUROPE

Thematic objective 1
 Strengthening **research, technological development** and **innovation**

Thematic objective 4
 Supporting the shift towards a **low-carbon economy** in all sectors

Thematic objective 6
 Protecting the **environment** and promoting **resource efficiency**

Thematic objective 7
 Promoting **sustainable transport** and removing bottlenecks in **key network infrastructures**

IP 1b: Promoting business investment in innovation and research, and developing links and synergies between enterprises, R&D centres and higher education

IP 4c: Supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings and in the housing sector
IP 4e: Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable urban mobility and mitigation relevant adaptation measures

IP 6c: Protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage
IP 6e: Action to improve the urban environment, regeneration of brown-field sites and reduction of air pollution

IP 7b: Enhancing regional mobility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure
IP 7c: Developing environment-friendly and low-carbon transport systems including river and sea transport, ports and multimodal links

IP ... Investment Priority

3. Programme strategy



Programme general objective

Cooperating to make central European cities and regions a better place to live and work

Transnational cooperation in CENTRAL EUROPE supports innovation, improves regional mobility and freight transport, promotes a low carbon economy, and helps protecting the environment

- ✓ Contributing to the Europe 2020 Strategy
- ✓ Based on the draft Common strategic Framework

- ✓ Strengthening Competitiveness
- ✓ Fostering sustainable territorial development

4. Priority Axes



Overview

The following slides provide detailed information along four Programme Priority Axes on:

- ✓ **Challenges** and **Needs** tackled by the Programme;
- ✓ Justification of the chosen **Thematic Objective** linking to the related challenges and needs;
- ✓ **Specific Objectives** linked to the chosen pre-defined **Investment Priorities** and Thematic Objectives;
- ✓ A provisional list of **thematic topics** of transnational relevance to be further translated into actions.

4. Priority Axes (Priority 1)



Priority 1: Cooperating on innovation to make CENTRAL EUROPE more competitive

Thematic Objective (1) (ref. to Annex 1)

Challenges:

- Concentration of R&D on a few growth poles
- Low level of R&D activities in rural/ peripheral regions
- Brain drain occurrences and deterioration of competitiveness → Risk of unemployment
- On-going labour market transformation
- Disparities in education and employment

Needs:

- Improved framework for innovation
- Economic specialisation based on regional potentials
- Enhanced technology transfer between research, education and business
- Improved skills and knowledge in the field of innovation throughout CE

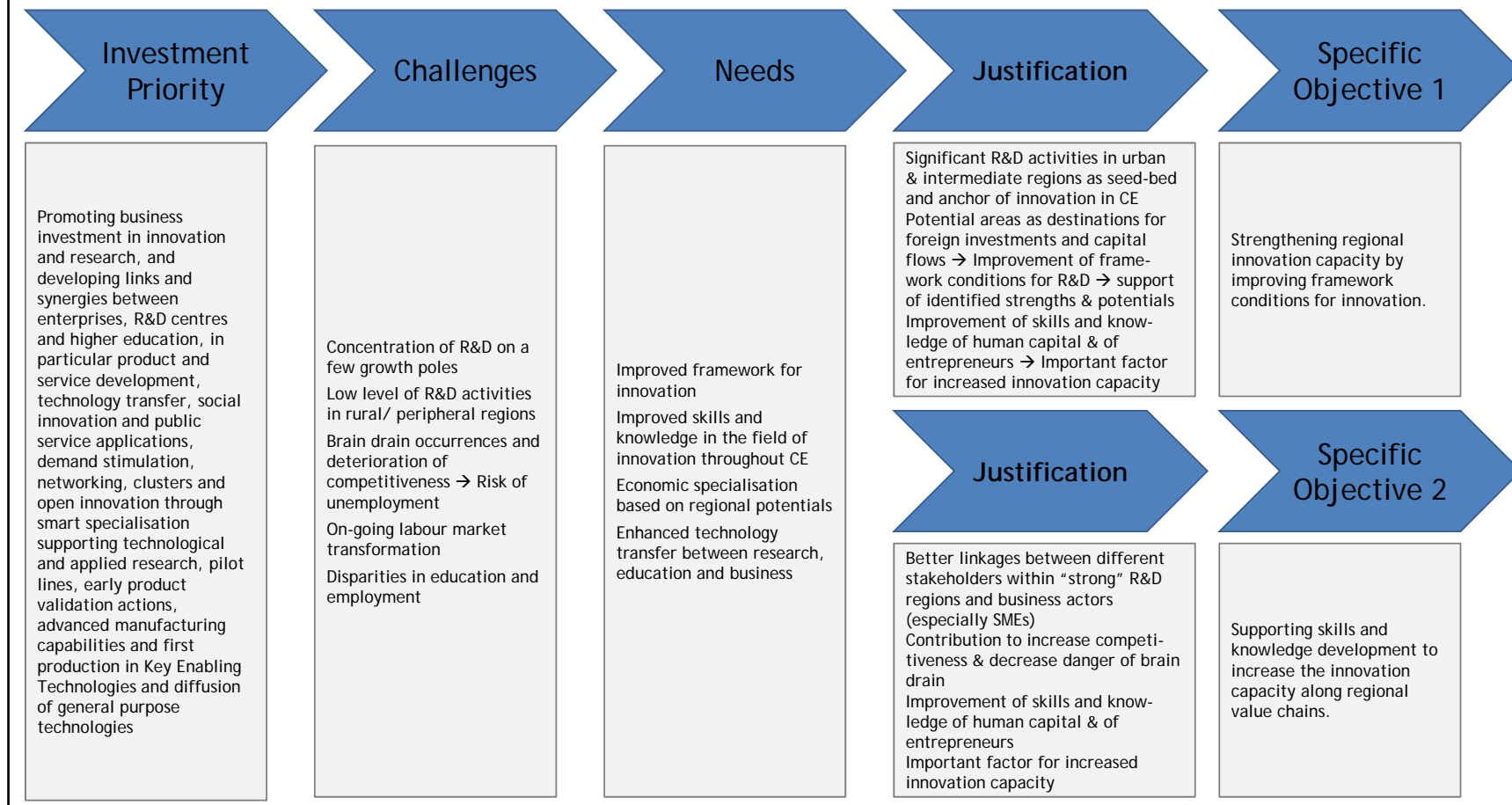
Justification:

- Significant R&D activities in urban and intermediate regions as seedbed and anchor of innovation in CE
- Potential areas as destinations for foreign investments and capital flows
 - Improvement of framework conditions for R&D → support of identified strengths & potentials
- Better linkages between different stakeholders within "strong" R&D regions and business actors (especially SMEs)
 - Contribution to increase competitiveness & decrease danger of brain drain
- Improvement of skills and knowledge of human capital & of entrepreneurs
 - Important factor for increased innovation capacity

4. Priority Axes (Priority 1)



Logical Chain of Investment Priority 1.b (ref. to Annex 1)



4. Priority Axes (Priority 1)



Investment Priority 1.b (ref. to Annex 1)

Specific Objective 1

Strengthening regional innovation capacity by improving framework conditions for innovation.

Preliminary list of thematic topics to be supported:

- *Coordination of knowledge transfer of R&D-results between research institutions and the business sector (in particular SMEs) and tertiary education as well as the public sector*
- *Establishment of transnational and the internationalization of regional networks and clusters*
- *Setting up of technology transfer, exchange and coordination mechanisms for innovation of processes, services and products and policies between key players of the innovation system*
- *Pilot and demonstrative application of innovative technologies at regional level*
- *Development and transfer of eco-innovations and innovations for low-carbon productive systems*

4. Priority Axes (Priority 1)



Investment Priority 1.b (ref. to Annex 1)

Specific Objective 2

Supporting skills and knowledge development to increase the innovation capacity along regional value chains.

Preliminary list of thematic topics to be supported:

- *Development, promotion and exchange of innovative methods of learning*
- *Knowledge transfer aiming at the improvement of the entrepreneurs' skills addressed to smart specialisation*
- *Fostering collaborative working and capacity building to stimulate innovation including social innovation*
- *Fostering the development and strengthening of competences for eco-innovative technologies and processes*
- *Strengthening capacities for social innovation* including management of demographic change, migration and brain-drain*

* With social innovation being understood in a broad sense (see <http://www.socialinnovationeurope.eu>)

4. Priority Axes (Priority 2)



Priority 2: Cooperating on energy to lower the carbon footprint in CENTRAL EUROPE

Thematic Objective (4) (ref. to Annex 1)

Challenges:

- High dependency on fossil fuels
- Low gross inland consumption of renewable energy
- Still increasing energy consumption
- Inefficient energy use especially in the housing and the public sector
- Not efficiently exploited potential of renewable energy

Needs:

- Improved energy efficiency in all sectors (public and private)
- Reduced increase of the energy consumption
- Increased use of the existing renewable energy potentials

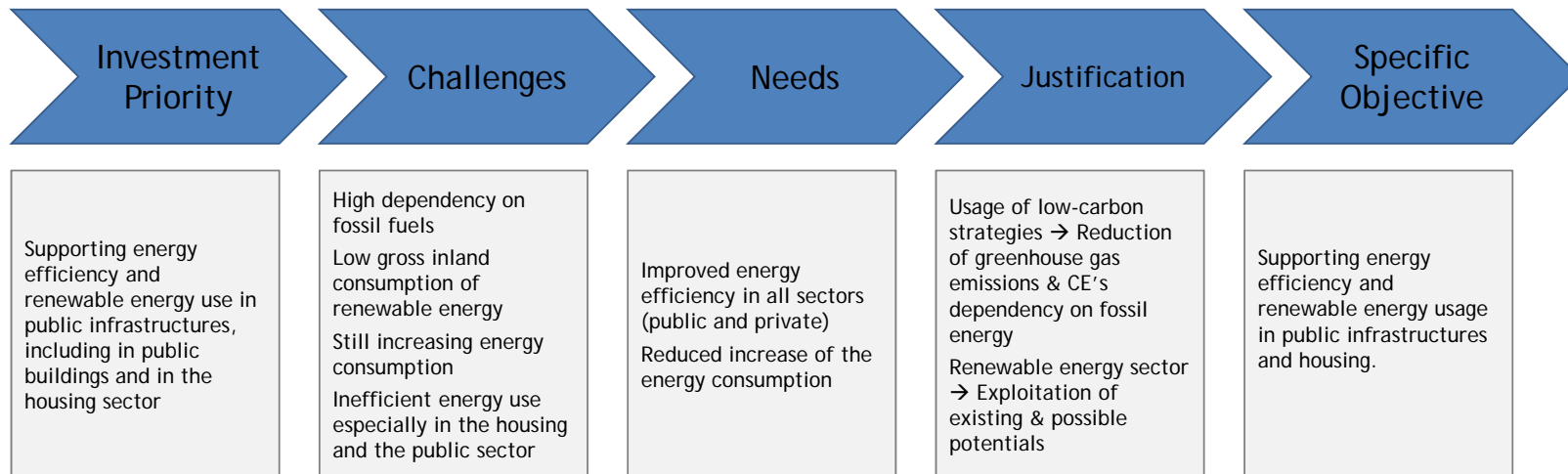
Justification:

- Usage of low-carbon strategies
 - Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions & CE's dependency on fossil energy
- Renewable energy sector
 - Exploitation of existing & possible potentials
- Existing knowledge on renewable energy & energy saving technologies
 - Strengthening internal strengths of CE

4. Priority Axes (Priority 2)



Logical Chain of Investment Priority 4.c (ref. to Annex 1)



4. Priority Axes (Priority 2)



Investment Priority 4.c (ref. to Annex 1)

Specific Objective

Supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy usage in public infrastructures and housing.

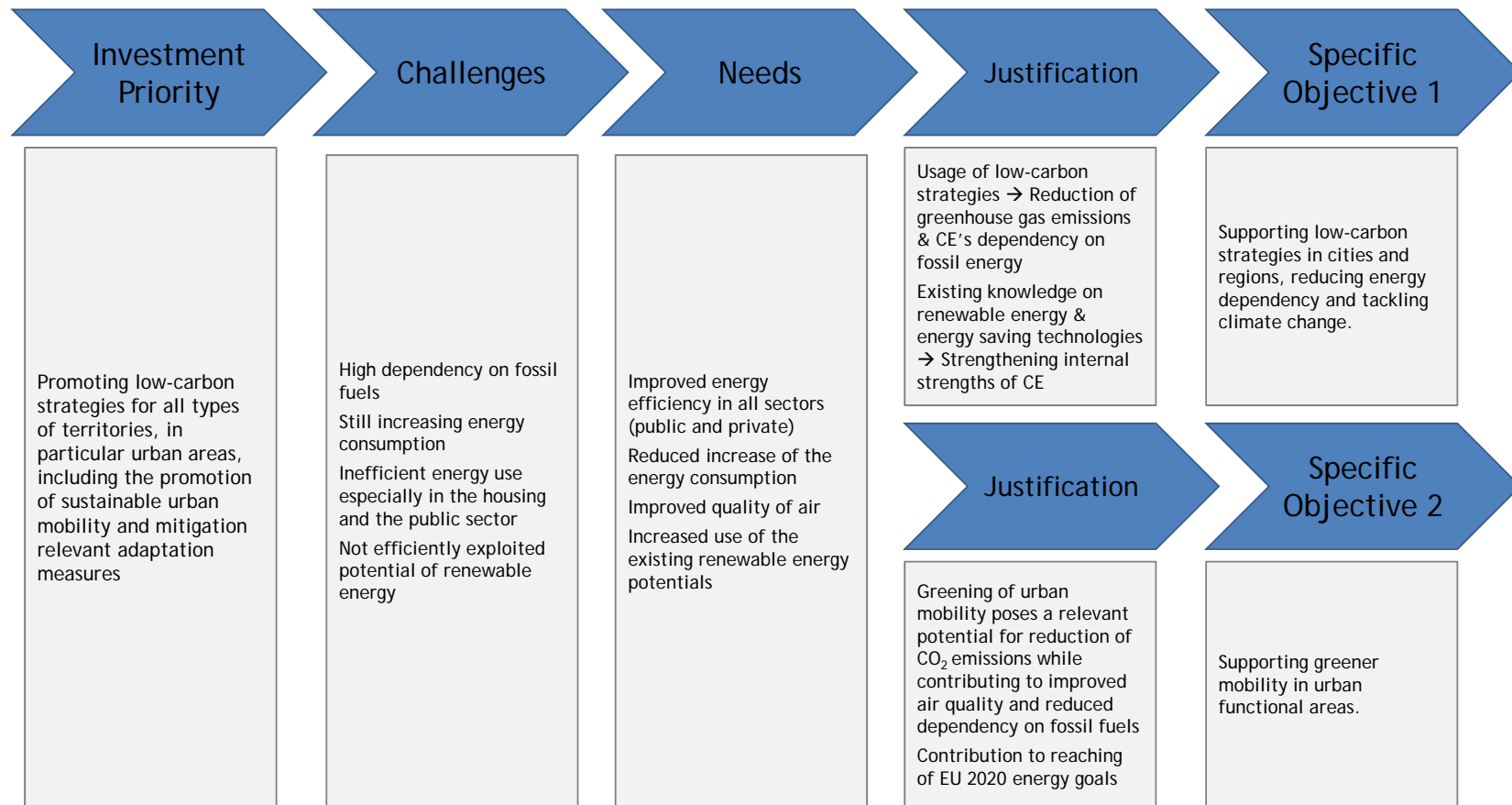
Preliminary list of thematic topics to be supported:

- *Strategies and actions for improving energy efficiency and renewable energy use in public infrastructure and buildings*
- *Activities to improve the energy efficient management of buildings and reduction of energy losses from building stock including the application of novel energy saving technologies*
- *Development and implementation of energy services and incentives*
- *Development of standards and certification systems for the energy performance of buildings following an integrated approach*
- *Educational measures in the field of energy management of public infrastructure and housing*

4. Priority Axes (Priority 2)



Logical Chain of Investment Priority 4.e (ref. to Annex 1)



4. Priority Axes (Priority 2)



Investment Priority 4.e (ref. to Annex 1)

Specific Objective 1

Supporting low-carbon strategies in cities and regions, reducing energy dependency and tackling climate change.

Preliminary list of thematic topics to be supported:

- *Development and implementation of integrated regional development plans aiming at an increased use of endogenous renewable energy potentials*
- *Actions for the use and exploitation of renewable endogenous energy resources (wind, water, solar energy, biomass, ...)*
- *Activities to improve the energy performance of regional enterprises especially of SMEs*
- *Actions to harmonise demand-side approaches towards low-carbon strategies (e.g. Smart metering, distribution of smart consumer applications)*

4. Priority Axes (Priority 2)



Investment Priority 4.e (ref. to Annex 1)

Specific Objective 2

Supporting greener mobility in urban functional areas.

Preliminary list of thematic topics to be supported:

- *Development and implementation of integrated urban mobility concepts and action plans for reducing CO₂ emissions*
- *Strategies and pilot applications for novel renewable energy technologies in the public transport sector*
- *Actions to promote smart low-emission public transport systems*
- *Development and implementation of services fostering smart-mobility in urban functional areas*

4. Priority Axes (Priority 3)



Priority 3: Cooperating on natural and cultural heritage for green growth in CENTRAL EUROPE

Thematic Objective (6) (ref. to Annex 1)

Challenges:

- Natural / semi-natural environment under pressure
- Conflicting land use
- Air and water pollution
- High level of land consumption & fragmentation
- Natural and cultural heritage endangered through unsustainable use
- Urban sprawl

Needs:

- Careful use of natural resources & natural and cultural heritage while maintaining an intact environment
- Improved quality of life in urban areas
- Slowed down land consumption & prevention of further landscape fragmentation

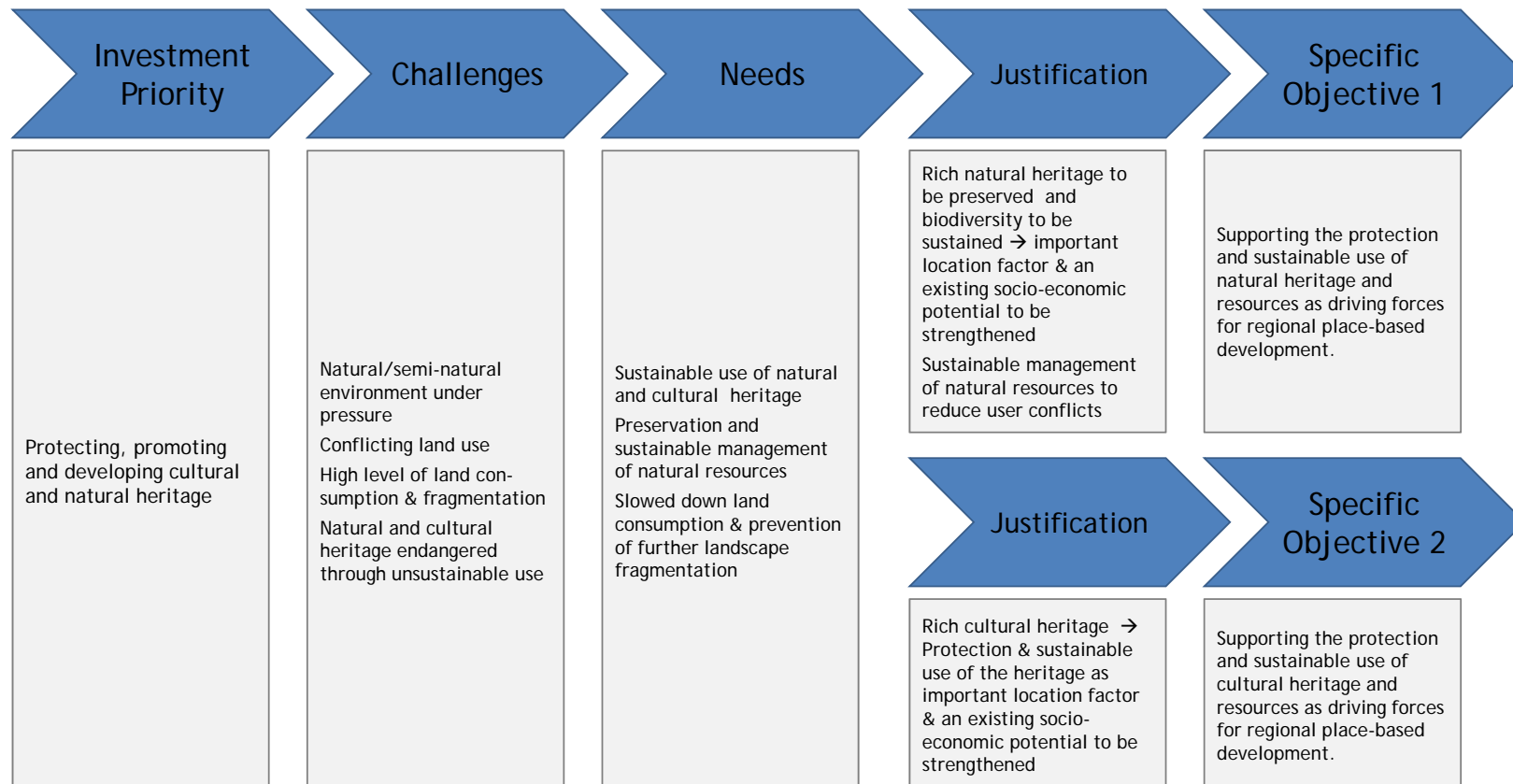
Justification:

- Rich cultural and natural heritage
 - Protection & sustainable use of the heritage as important location factor & an existing socio-economic potential
- Reduced pressure on natural resources
 - Sustain this potential in a long term perspective
- Improved environmental situation of urban centres
 - Increased urban quality of life

4. Priority Axes (Priority 3)



Logical Chain of Investment Priority 6.c (ref. to Annex 1)



4. Priority Axes (Priority 3)



Investment Priority 6.c (ref. to Annex 1)

Specific Objective 1

Supporting the protection and sustainable use of natural heritage and resources as driving forces for regional place-based development.

Preliminary list of thematic topics to be supported:

- *Policies and practical actions for the preservation, management and sustainable use of high-value ecosystems including biodiversity and landscapes*
- *Strategies to reduce land use conflicts*
- *Actions and tools for environmental management and sustainable use of natural resources*
- *Environmental monitoring systems as a basis for preventing negative impacts and for taking mitigation measures*
- *Pilot applications of innovative technologies for sustainable use of natural resources*
- *Support of sustainable entrepreneurship in protected and sensitive areas*

4. Priority Axes (Priority 3)



Investment Priority 6.c (ref. to Annex 1)

Specific Objective 2

Supporting the protection and sustainable use of cultural heritage and resources as driving forces for regional place-based development.

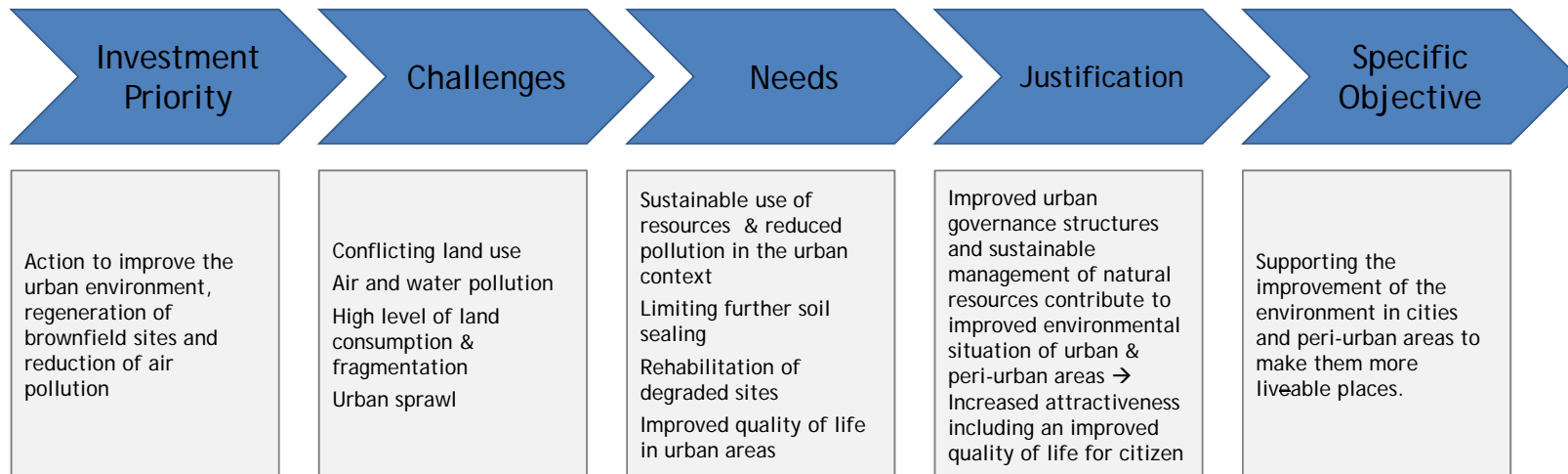
Preliminary list of thematic topics to be supported:

- *Policies and practical actions for the protection and promotion of cultural resources*
- *Integrated cultural and economic concepts and measures generating regional added value and employment*
- *Building capacities for innovative management strategies for the protection, preservation and sustainable use of cultural resources*
- *Transnational linkage of cultural heritage sites fostering their sustainable use and promotion*
- *Actions for developing cultural and creative entrepreneurship and skills*

4. Priority Axes (Priority 3)



Logical Chain of Investment Priority 6.e (ref. to Annex 1)



4. Priority Axes (Priority 3)



Investment Priority 6.e (ref. to Annex 1)

Specific Objective:

Supporting the improvement of the environment in cities and peri-urban areas to make them more liveable places.

Preliminary list of thematic topics to be supported:

- *Capacity building and strengthening governance structures for urban environmental management*
- *Strategies, actions and tools to reduce land-use conflicts and urban sprawl in functional urban areas*
- *Development of common strategies concerning the rehabilitation and reactivation of brownfield sites*
- *Policies and practical actions (including innovative technologies) for smart urban management*
- *Strategies and actions to improve the environmental quality (air, water, soil, climate) in functional urban areas*

4. Priority Axes (Priority 4)



Priority 4: Cooperating on transport to better connect CENTRAL EUROPE

Thematic Objective (7) (ref. to Annex 1)

Challenges:

- Low accessibility of peripheral regions
- New MS transport systems suffer from reduced public transport services
- Stronger reliance on individual transport → social and environmental problems
- Exhausted public traffic infrastructure capacity

Needs:

- Tackle regional accessibility disparities
- Improve accessibility of cities & regions outside the metropolitan areas and TEN corridors
- Promote environmentally friendly and intelligent transport systems
- Focusing on public transport & multi-modal transport systems

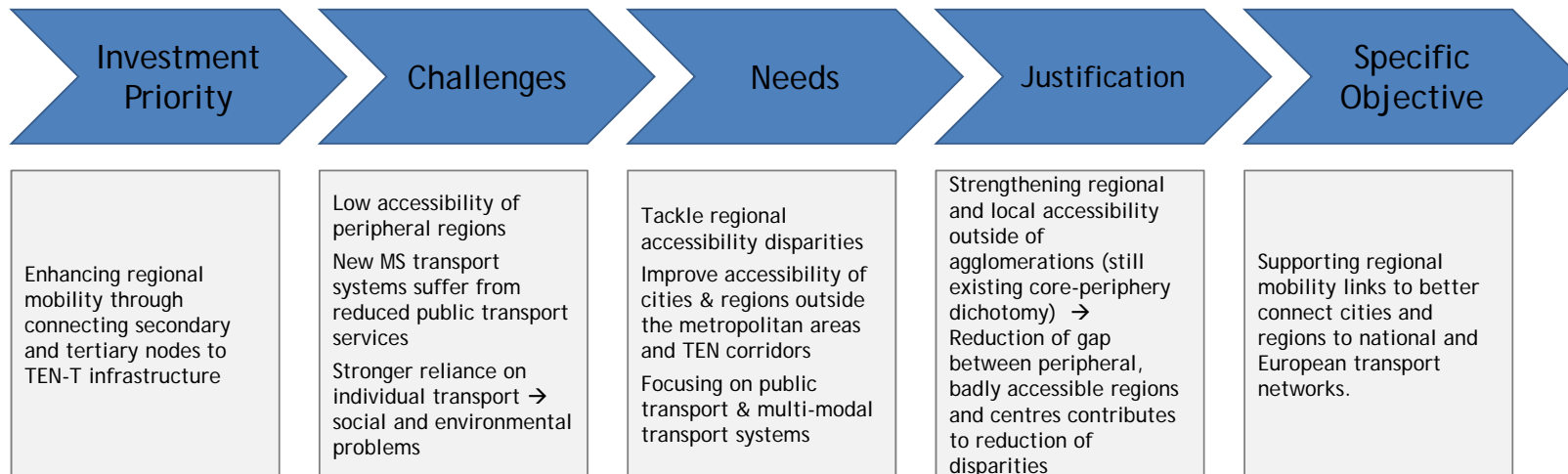
Justification:

- Still existing core-periphery dichotomy
 - Reduction of gap between peripheral, badly accessible regions and centres
- Better regional accessibility contributes to increase the involvement of peripheral, regions into the development process & to reduce regional shrinkage
- Contribution to reaching energy reduction objectives
- Increasing transport volumes
 - Reinforced need for environmental-friendly & low-carbon systems

4. Priority Axes (Priority 4)



Logical Chain of Investment Priority 7.b (ref. to Annex 1)



4. Priority Axes (Priority 4)



Investment Priority 7.b (ref. to Annex 1)

Specific Objective

Supporting regional mobility links to better connect cities and regions to national and European transport networks.

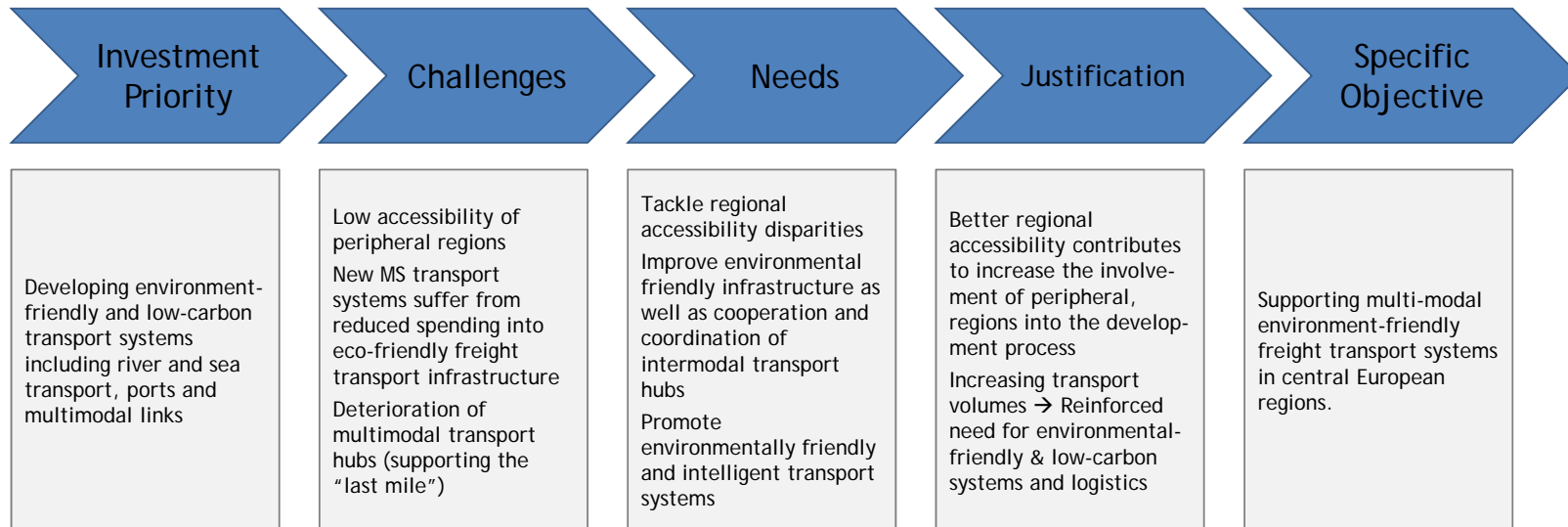
Preliminary list of thematic topics to be supported:

- *Policies and practical actions for strengthening regional transport systems by linking peripheral regions to TEN-T networks and to secondary and tertiary nodes*
- *Policies and practical actions for increasing the regional accessibility and reducing periphery by developing sustainable solutions for “the last mile” linking the customer to the existing public transport system*
- *Actions fostering the use and strengthening the interoperability of regional railway systems*
- *Improving governance structures for regional mobility and the efficiency of service standards*
- *Development and introduction of smart and innovative regional mobility concepts*

4. Priority Axes (Priority 4)



Logical Chain of Investment Priority 7.c (ref. to Annex 1)



4. Priority Axes (Priority 4)



Investment Priority 7.c (ref. to Annex 1)

Specific Objective

Supporting multi-modal environment-friendly freight transport systems in central European regions.

Preliminary list of thematic topics to be supported:

- *Measures aiming at fostering environmentally friendly transport freight systems (railway, river, sea transport) by strengthening multimodality*
- *Development of logistics tools, networks and services to improve long distance transport flows taking into account multimodality and low-carbon transport strategies*
- *Preparation of investments in the field of transnational freight transport*
- *Development of concepts and strategies for “greening” the last mile of the freight transport*

5. Useful links



Europe 2020 strategy:

ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm

Proposal of legislative package for the Cohesion Policy 2014-2020:

ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/proposals_2014_2020_en.cfm

Territorial analysis of the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme area (2012):

www.central2013.eu/about-central/central-europe-2014-2020/programming-process/

Contacts



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ANNEX 1: THEMATIC OBJECTIVES (TO) AND INVESTMENT PRIORITIES (IP) - Article 5 of the draft ERDF regulation [COM(2011) 614 final, 6 October 2011]
Version as on November 2012¹

TO (1) strengthening research, technological development and innovation:
IP 1.a enhancing research and innovation (R&I) infrastructure and capacities to develop R&I excellence and promoting centres of competence, in particular those of European interest;
IP 1.b promoting business investment in innovation and research, and developing links and synergies between enterprises, R&D centres and higher education, in particular product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation and public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation supporting technological and applied research, pilot lines, early product validation actions, advanced manufacturing capabilities and first production in Key Enabling Technologies and diffusion of general purpose technologies;
TO (2) enhancing access to and use and quality of ICT through:
IP 2.a extending broadband deployment and the roll-out of high-speed networks and supporting the adoption of emerging technologies and networks for the digital economy;
IP 2.b developing ICT products and services, e-commerce and enhancing demand for ICT;
IP 2.c strengthening ICT applications for e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, e-culture and e-health;
TO (3) enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs through:
IP 3.a promoting entrepreneurship, in particular by facilitating the economic exploitation of new ideas and fostering the creation of new firms, including through business incubators;
IP 3.b developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular for internationalisation;
IP 3.c supporting the creation and extension of advanced capacities for product and service development;
IP 3.d supporting the capacity of SMEs to engage in growth and innovation processes;
TO (4) supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors through:
IP 4.a promoting the production and distribution of renewable energy sources;
IP 4.b promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in enterprises;
IP 4.c supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy use in public infrastructures, including in public buildings and in the housing sector;
IP 4.d developing and implementing smart distribution systems at low and medium voltage levels;
IP 4.e promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of enterprises, in particular urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable urban mobility and mitigation relevant adaptation measures;
IP 4.f promoting research, innovation and adoption of low-carbon technologies;
IP 4.g promoting the use of high-efficiency co-generation of heat and power based on useful heat demand;
TO (5) promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management through:
IP 5.a supporting investment for adaptation to climate change;
IP 5.b promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems;
TO (6) protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency through:
IP 6.a addressing the significant needs for investment in the waste sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis;
IP 6.b addressing the significant needs for investment in the water sector to meet the requirements of the Union's environmental acquis;
IP 6.c protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage;
IP 6.d protecting and restoring biodiversity, soil protection and restoration and promoting ecosystem services including NATURA 2000 ² and green infrastructures;
IP 6.e action to improve the urban environment, regeneration of brownfield sites and reduction of air pollution;
IP 6.f promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in the waste sector, water sector, soil protection or to reduce air pollution;
IP 6.g support industrial transition towards a resource-efficient economy and promoting green growth;
TO (7) promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures through:
IP 7.a supporting a multimodal Single European Transport Area by investing in the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) network;
IP 7.b enhancing regional mobility through connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure;
IP 7.c developing environment-friendly and low-carbon transport systems including river and sea transport, ports and multimodal links;
IP 7.d developing and rehabilitating comprehensive, high quality and interoperable railway system;
IP 7.e developing smart gas and power distribution, storage and transmission systems;
TO (8) promoting employment and supporting labour mobility through:
IP 8.a development of business incubators and investment support for self employment, micro-enterprises and business creation;
IP 8.b supporting employment friendly growth through the development of endogenous potential as part of a territorial strategy for specific areas, including the conversion of declining industrial regions and enhancement of accessibility to and development of specific natural and cultural resources;
IP 8.c local development initiatives and aid for structures providing neighbourhood services to create new jobs, where such actions are outside the scope of Regulation (EU) No [...] /2012 [ESF];
IP 8.d investing in infrastructure for public employment services;
(9) promoting social inclusion and combating poverty through:
IP 9.a investing in health and social infrastructure which contribute to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, and transition from institutional to community-based services;
IP 9.b support for physical economic and social regeneration of deprived urban and rural communities and areas;
IP 9.c support for social enterprises;
(10) investing in education, skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure;
(11) enhancing institutional capacity and an efficient public administration by strengthening of institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services related to implementation of the ERDF, and in support of actions in institutional capacity and in the efficiency of public administration supported by the ESF.

¹ DISCLAIMER: This document is for information purposes only and the wording of Thematic Objectives and Investment Priorities is based on non-official documents and might be subject to changes.

² Set up as a coherent European ecological network of special areas of conservation pursuant to Article 3(1) of Council Directive 92-43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.