Assessment of low carbon measures in development programmes : lessons learnt from some European Regional Development Programmes (ERDF)

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Agenda

- Overview of ESIF programmes
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in ERDF regional programmes
- Low carbon economy (LC) in a SEA
- Conclusion

CP1 – overview of ESIF programmes (2014-2020)

- European Structural and Investment Funds (ESF, CF, EARDF, EMFF + Y&I), supporting Cohesion Policy (art. 174 of the Treaty – addressing the disparities of regional development in the EU MS)
- More than 500 national and regional programmes - 638 billions over a 6 years period
- Development issues from infrastructures to training, from innovation to environment and social inclusion (11 thematic objectives)
- "Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy" is one of the thematic objective (TO 4)

CP2 – Thematic objectives

Source: https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/

1. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation

2. Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies

3. Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs

4. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy

5. Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management

6. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

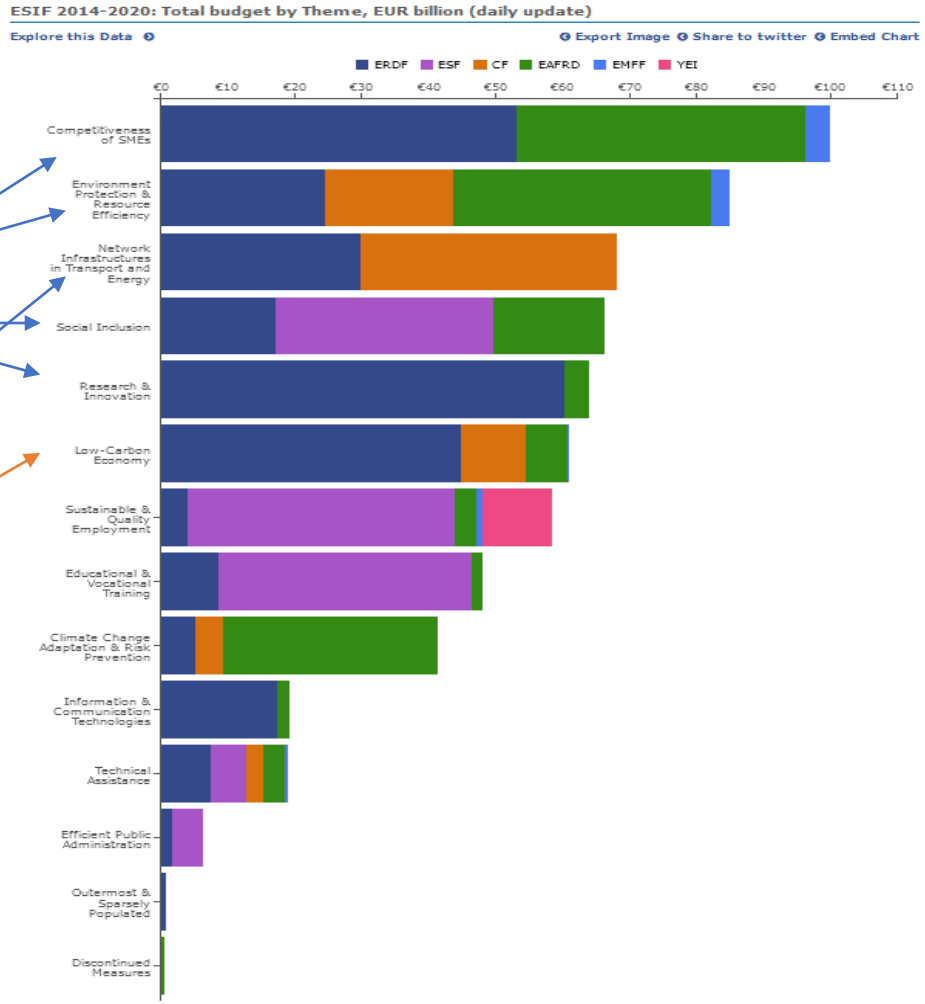
7. Promoting sustainable transport and improving network infrastructures

8. Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility

9. Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination

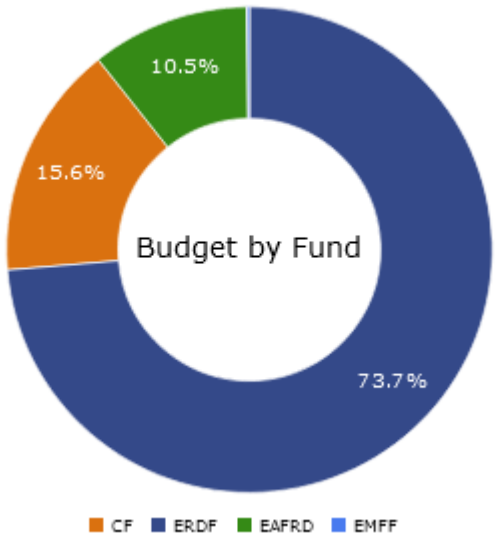
10. Investing in education, training and lifelong learning

11. Improving the efficiency of public administration



CP3 - Low carbon economy (TO 4)

61 billion € - 10 % ESIF



Type of interventions related to low carbon economy:

- Renewable energy
- Energy efficiency in buildings
- Energy planning, including urban planning

Other TOs dealing with climate change mitigation (but not TO4)

- **TO1** - Research and innovation (low-carbon technologies)
- **TO3** – Competitiveness (Financial support to the low carbon economy, circular and bio-economy)
- **TO6** - Environment (carbon sink, land use)
- **TO7** – Sustainable Transports
- **TO10** - Education and training

CP4 – Example of Low carbon priority in Two Seas – Interreg France, UK, Netherlands and Belgium (ERDF)

https://www.interreg2seas.eu/en/content/low-carbon-technologies

Programme interventions

- Development of comparative pilots actions to test and demonstrate innovative low-carbon technologies and applications
- Adoption by stakeholders of low-carbon technologies to increase the use of energy from renewable sources.
- Adoption by stakeholders at different territorial and administrative level of identical or similar innovative low-carbon technologies to reduce their CO2 emissions
- Prepare for investments in the further roll-out of low-carbon technologies
- Investments to realise innovative small-scale infrastructures for renewable energy generation, production and distribution

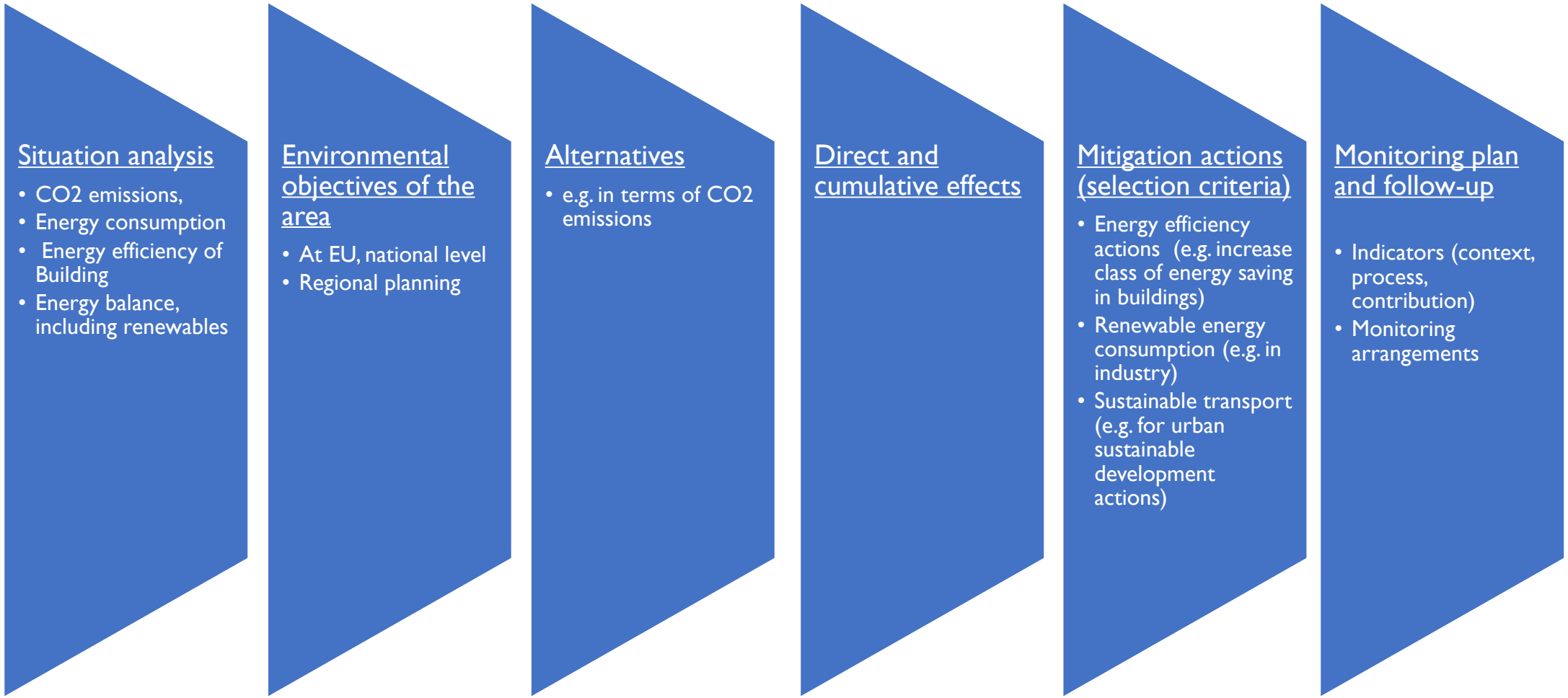
12 LC Projects funded

- MOBI-MIX: Improved implementation of shared mobility and MaaS to increase up-take of low-carbon transport in cities.
- ISHY : Implementation of Ship Hybridisation
- SHIFFT: Sustainable Heating: Implementation of Fossil-Free Technologies
- SOLARISE : Solar Adoption Rise in the 2 Seas
- SLIC : Smart light concepts
- PECS: Ports Energy and Carbon Savings
- BISEPS : Business Cluster Integrated Sustainable Energy Packages
- And More: https://www.interreg2seas.eu/en/listing-approved-project?search=&axis=1227&p_axis=All&states=All&field_pays_tid=All

SEA1– SEA in an ERDF 2014-2020 programming context

- SEA is a section of the ex-ante evaluation ; with guidance from DG Regio
- Stakeholders involved are : programme MA, AA and other stakeholders in the MC
- Duration of the process is 6-9 months (which is very short …)
- Territorial units: of analysis Nuts 2 and/ore Nuts 3 (intermediate territorial level …)
- Main deliveries: a scoping report, environmental reports + a public consultation
- Follow-up activities are required (i.e. monitoring and evaluation in the implementation period)

SEA2 – Steps of SEA with LC measures



SEA3 – Assessment tools and data sources

Two ways for an assessment of the environmental effects of LC measures:

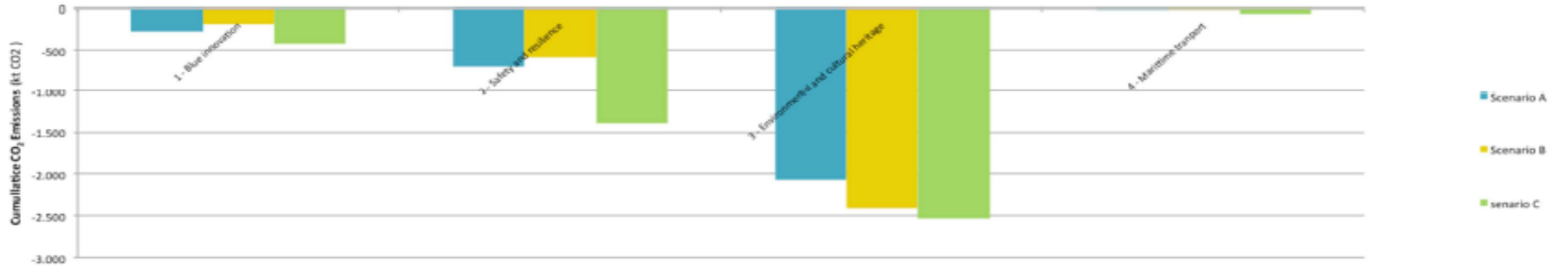
- Quantitative approach: through indicators and modelling
- Qualitative approach: based on guidance and specific sector and impact analysis

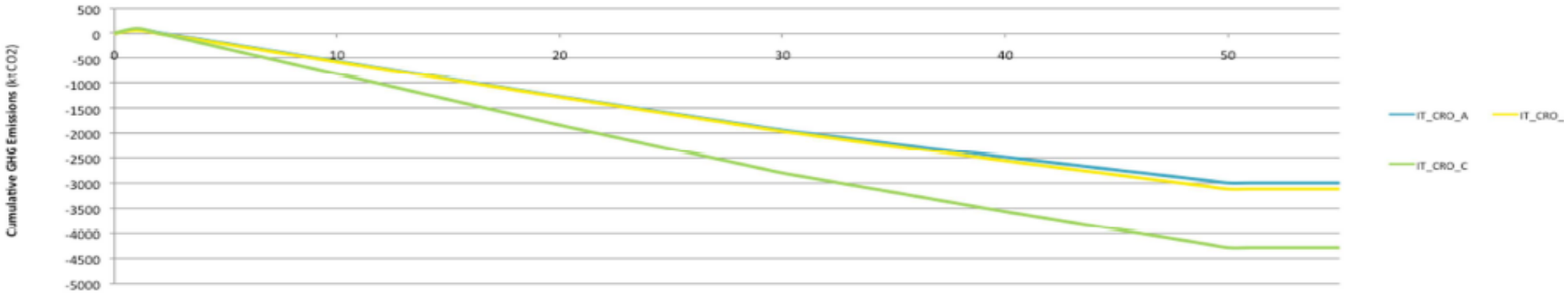
(In general: sources and tools have improved over the past 20 years – current key issues are more related to data selection)

SEA4 - Quantitative analysis with the CO2MPARE model - example.

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/guides/2013/co2mpare-co2-model-for-operational-programme-assessment-in-eu-regions-improved-carbon-management-with-eu-regional-policy

Figure 23: CO2MPARE Model for the CP Italy-Croatia, according with three different scenarios.





SEA5 – in conclusion (I)

SEA is useful in the programme drafting process, especially when it comes to mitigation actions and indicators for monitoring

Definition of mitigation actions:

- At the end of the programme drafting (when actions are defined)
- Useful for the definition of project selection criteria and tendering procedure

Definition of indicators:

- When close to programme actions and outputs/results
- With monitoring arrangements
- With a budget plan (a pre-condition for the programme following-up)

SEA5 – in conclusion (2)

SEA is more challenging for ERDF programmes when it comes to:

- Definition of LC alternatives (i.e. usually there are not related to environmental considerations)
- Definition of the logic of intervention (i.e. programme priorities are set at a more higher political level)
- Related to the financial allocation to the programme priorities (i.e. often decided based on socio-economic considerations)
- Quantification of impact indicators, such as the programme or project carbon footprint (very challenging especially for certain types of non-material projects)

Thank you for your attention!

François Levarlet

For your information some of our SEAs are published on the following platforms:
https://www.interreg2seas.eu/en/content/about-programme
https://www.italy-croatia.eu/docs-and-tools#docsTools_42271
https://www.channelmanche.com/en/programme/useful-documents/

Break out A

- How can the SEA contribute to **reduction of energy and resource consumption** in order to improve positive environmental impacts on global climate change considering
  - the production
  - but also the whole lifespan of the economies and their outcomes
  - as well as related life-style involving aspects

  through **a cross-sectoral perspective**?

- How can we enhance system thinking in SEA in this context?
- How can SEA affect the decision-making in terms of early consideration of mitigation targets and integrative consideration of cross-sectoral perspe