

Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches.

The EU faces multiple risks including floods and extreme weather events that very often go beyond national borders and are aggravated by climate change. Natural and man-made disasters affect stability and growth, lead to injury and loss of life, and impact environment and local, social conditions.

The combined impacts of climate change pose specific sectoral challenges in EU regions.

Rural development

Predominantly rural areas make up half of Europe and represent around 20 % of the population. However, most of the rural areas are also among the least favoured regions in the EU.

In order to help rural regions grow and raise employment and living standards, the European Union's rural development policy has set three objectives: improving the competitiveness of agriculture, achieving sustainable management of natural resources and climate action, and a balanced territorial development of rural areas.

The following are the main areas in which the European regional development fund is active:

- Creation of jobs outside the agriculture industry (new businesses, development of tourism related activities etc.);
- Development of access and connections between cities and rural areas, especially in the context of the information society;
- Support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the agriculture industry, the agro-alimentary industry and the forestry industry;
- Risk control in the agriculture and forestry industries;

Environment and resource efficiency

EU Cohesion Policy supports sustainable growth by promoting water and waste management, environmentally-friendly and innovative clean technologies, as well as measures targeted at the protection of air, biodiversity and nature. Through these investments, the Funds play an important role in boosting the implementation of EU environmental policies.

The EU Structural and Investment Funds help to protect and preserve natural assets such as water, nature and biodiversity, clean air or raw materials.

Life Nature and Biodiversity sub-programme

The Nature and Biodiversity sub-programme will aim at the protection and restoration of Europe's nature and halting and reversing biodiversity loss. Thus, the LIFE Nature and Biodiversity sub-programme will continue to fund nature conservation projects, in particular in the areas of biodiversity, habitats and species. It will support projects that contribute to the implementation of the EU Birds and Habitats directives, and in particular the development and management of the Natura 2000 network and will support achieving the objectives of the EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030.