



Study programme of DG Regio for the ESI Funds

**EMFF expert group
Brussels, 2 March, 2016**

Study programme for 2014-2017

A phased
approach

- **2014 - 2015:** Analysing the integration of new elements in the programming phase
- **2015 - 2016:** Analysing the integration of new elements in programme implementation
- **2016 - 2017:** Focus on key policy questions and options to feed into the impact assessment

11 studies have been launched so far

1. Analyse 2014-2020 programming phase

- *4 studies ("new provisions", ex ante conditionalities, performance framework, partnership principle)*

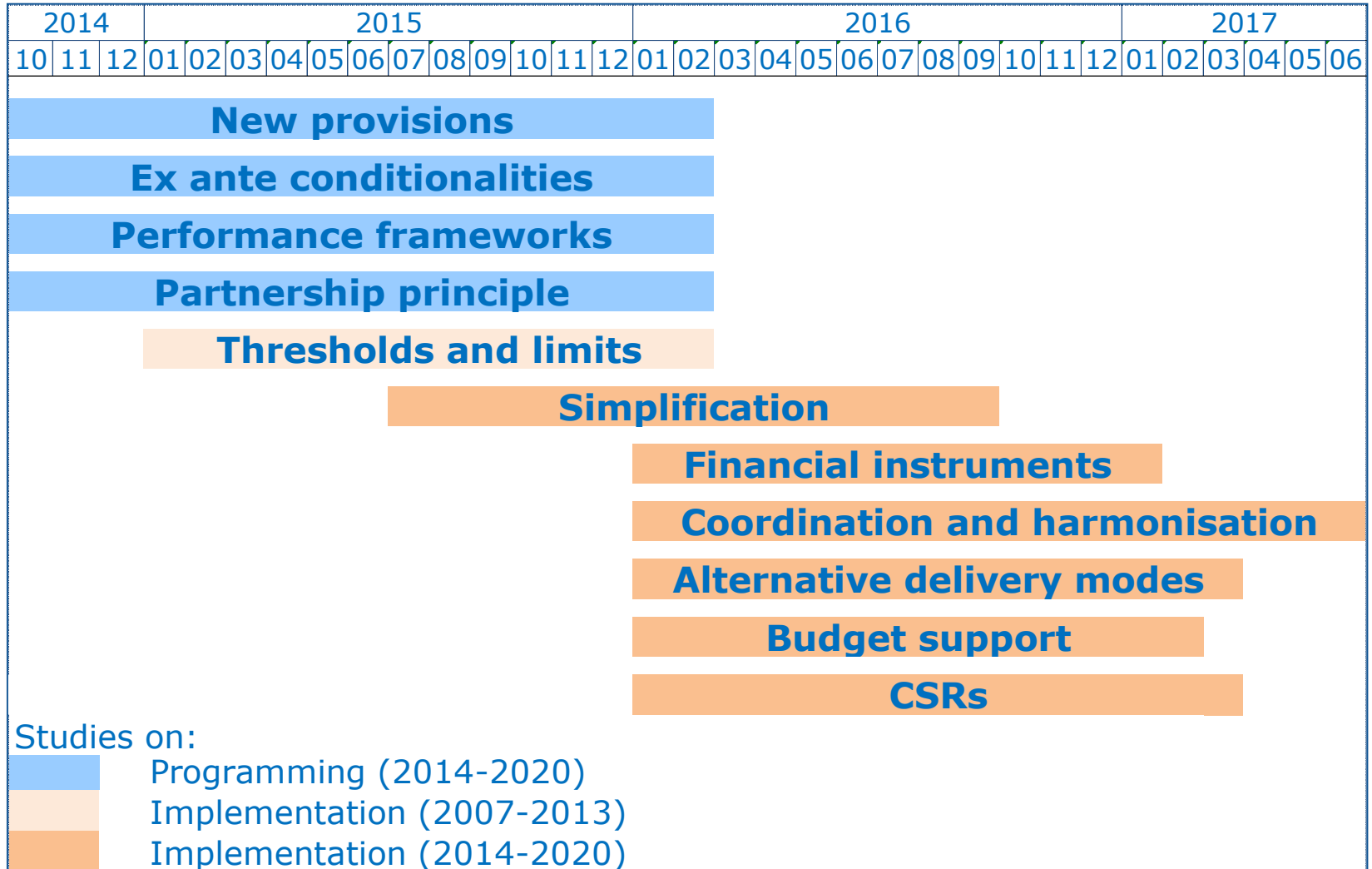
2. Assess the impacts and effects of the thresholds and limits introduced in the CPR

- *Study on "thresholds and limits" (setting up a database of 2007-2013 operations)*

3. Analyse 2014-2020 programme implementation and options to feed into the impact assessment

- *6 studies (simplification, financial instruments, coordination and harmonisation, alternative delivery mechanisms, feasibility study on budget support, country specific recommendations – "CSRs")*

Timeline of the studies



Study on simplification

3 specific objectives

- Assess how **simplification possibilities** of the new regulatory framework have been taken up **by Member States** during the early implementation phase of programmes
- **Compare and quantify the impact of regulatory changes** on the administrative burden for beneficiaries and costs for programme authorities
- Assess and quantify the **potential burden for beneficiaries** resulting from **additional rules** applied at national level ('gold-plating')

Study on Financial instruments

5 specific objectives

- Set out the **rationale for the use of financial instruments** (FI) to support economic development
- Identify how Member States make **use of FI in the 2014-2020** period
- Identify practical, legal and administrative (capacity) **issues which influence** Member States, regions and financial intermediaries **to choose (or not to choose)** FI as opposed to other forms of support
- Analyse the **relationship, interaction and complementarities** between ERDF, Cohesion Fund, ESF and EMFF-supported FI and other EU instruments (incl. the EFSI)
- Provide conclusions on the strengths and weaknesses of the legislative framework and identify recommendations for possible improvements and **options** for the future

Study on Coordination and harmonisation

3 specific objectives

- Assess the coherence, complementarity and coordination of **policy objectives**
- Assess the coherence, complementarity and coordination of **implementation mechanisms**
 - **between the ESI Funds under shared management**
 - **between the ESI Funds and other EU Funds involving grants (centrally managed or delivery under shared management)**
 - **between the ESI Funds and EU financial instruments and instruments managed by the European Investment Bank**
- Identify the main strengths, weaknesses and bottlenecks in delivering EU priorities through EU instruments in a coherent, complementary and coordinated manner and suggest a **set of options** to improve their coherence, complementarity and coordination

Study on Alternative delivery mechanisms

3 specific objectives

- Identify and assess the **strengths and weaknesses of the current ESI Funds delivery mechanisms** in respect of accountability, sound financial management, legality and regularity, aspects of good governance and simplification
- Identify **other policy adequate result-oriented delivery mechanisms** (not currently used in the context of ESI Funds) to address the identified weaknesses and build on the strengths of the existing approach. Assess to what extent these mechanisms could be the bases for a **differentiated approach** in the implementation of the ESI funds
- Select **options** and analyse their potential impacts in terms of their effectiveness, efficiency and economy on the delivery of policy objectives

Feasibility study on Budget Support

5 specific objectives

- Provide an overview of the use of budget support at international level, including **key lessons** learnt from evaluations and audits
- Identify **which elements** of budget support could be **most useful** to the main **policy areas supported by the ESI Funds**. Assess potential advantages and related disadvantages and risks.
- Analyse differences between the current delivery mode of the ESI Funds and budget support, as regards **regularity, legality, sound financial management and the fight against fraud**.
- Propose a **legal framework** for the application of budget support delivery system in ESI Funds
- Assess and **quantify the main potential benefits, costs and risks** from the use of budget support in ESI Funds in qualitative and monetary terms

Study on CSRs

4 specific objectives

- Establish an **overview of structural reforms expected** from Member States and of related sources of information (with a focus on recent CSRs - 2012-2015)
- Assess **ESI Funds contribution** to the implementation of expected structural reforms through an analysis of:
 - the **uptake of CSRs in the programming** phase and their impact so far on the start of programme implementation
 - the **impact of ex-ante conditionalities**
- Set out the **investment needs in institutional capacity** to implement structural reforms or the CSRs. Assess the supporting role of TO 11
- Draw conclusions and identify **lessons** for the future about the support provided by ESI Funds to structural reforms and CSRs implementation

Involvement of actors at national / regional level

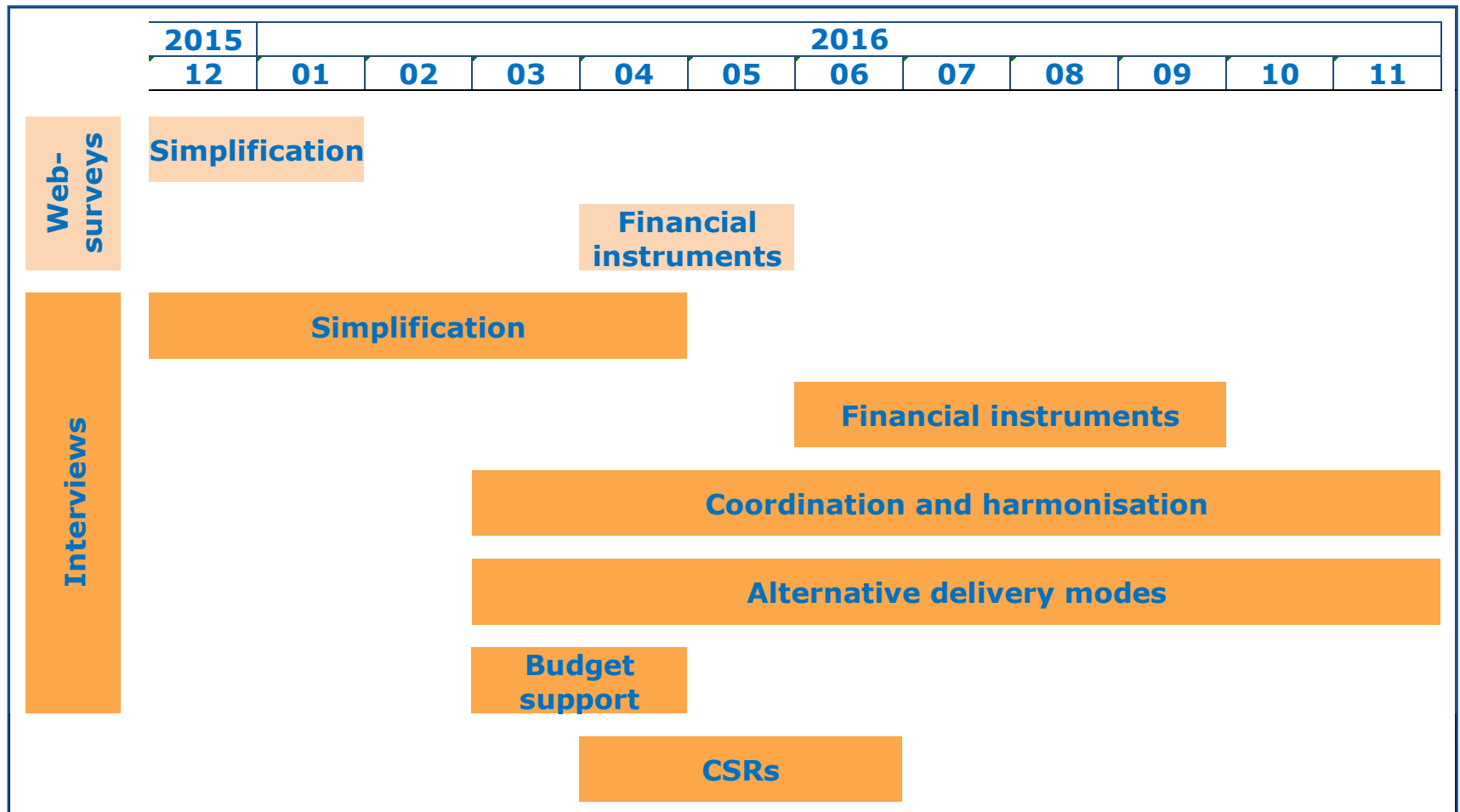
In the 4 studies on programming

- Web-based surveys to all Managing Authorities (MAs)
- Structured interviews of key actors at national/regional levels

In the 6 studies on implementation / options for the impact assessment

- Web-surveys to all MAs (*simplification, financial instruments*)
- Structured interviews of a representative sample of key actors at national and /or regional levels (*all 6 studies, except for budget support*)
- Structured interviews of beneficiaries (*simplification, coordination and harmonisation*)

Planning for contacts in Member States for the studies on implementation





Thank you for your attention!

We count on your cooperation !