

# The impact of EU Cohesion Policy on European Identification

## The more EU money, the more people like Europe or can you buy EU love with money?

Partners of the EU-Project COHESIFY to present first results at Warsaw University on 7 and 8 December.

*(Warsaw, 2 Dec 2016)* The EU spends 100€ per citizen per year on regional funds, creating jobs, improving infrastructure and organising trainings. Between 2007 – 2013, Poland received EUR 57.2 billion regional EU funding and used it to create 87 000 jobs, build 1900km of new roads and connect 1,700,000 people with broadband internet.

The COHESIFY project funded by the Horizon2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation is investigating whether people in Europe are aware of the EU's Regional Policy programmes or projects in their regions and in how far they identify with the European Union.

For two years, a consortium of 8 partner universities across Europe and 2 SMEs – among them the University of Warsaw – is conducting multi-disciplinary research on the topic. In the current context of Brexit and discussions on the future of Cohesion Policy at European level, the project is very much needed to give orientation and guidance to politicians and policy-makers. One of the main objectives is to better understand the relationship between the levels of EU-funding received in certain regions and the level of support to the European Union achieved. For example, Wales and Cornwall in the United Kingdom are so-called “net-beneficiary regions”, receiving more money from the European Union's Cohesion Policy funds than what they pay, nevertheless, their citizens have voted “leave” this summer. With nationalism on the rise in many European countries, there is a growing concern whether the European Union is still reaching its citizens today and whether the money is well spent in this respect.

Therefore, one of the fields of interest will also be to analyse the communication campaigns on EU Regional funding that were conducted in numerous regions. The Polish partner, the University of Warsaw, has selected case studies from **Pomorskie Region** and the **Podkarpackie Region** to be further investigated.

A meeting of all project partners will take place in **Warsaw** on **7 and 8 December** during which the first project results will be presented. It will be possible to conduct

interviews with the key researchers, but a previous appointment is required. The project can also provide additional visual materials (photos, infographics, statistics) and the first scientific reports upon request.

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