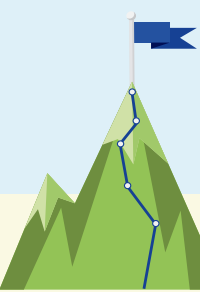




European  
Commission



## The 7<sup>th</sup> Report on economic, social and territorial **COHESION**



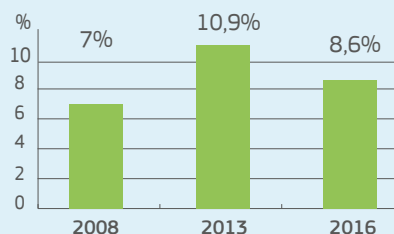
Published every three years, the Cohesion report analyses the current state of the EU's economic, social and territorial cohesion. In doing so, the report takes the pulse of EU regions and helps us assess if we have grown closer or apart in the recent years. By allowing us to see with clarity and objectivity what has been achieved with EU funds and what remains to be done, the Cohesion report sets the scene for tomorrow's Cohesion Policy.

### Europe's economy is bouncing back.

GDP and employment have reached all-time highs.

#### REGIONAL DISPARITIES ARE SHRINKING AGAIN. BUT MORE REMAINS TO BE DONE:

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATES** across the EU remain above the pre-crisis level, especially among young people



**SOME REGIONS FACE MASS EXODUS**, while cities are under pressure due to newcomers seeking better prospects, including migrants. Pockets of poverty exist even in wealthy cities and regions.



**PUBLIC INVESTMENT** remains low. Too many businesses are struggling to adapt to globalisation, digitalisation, green growth, technology.



To bring more cohesion in our Union  
and for all regions to hold their own globalised economy, we need:

## AN EU-WIDE INVESTMENT POLICY



- Which helps **harness globalisation**, helping regions modernise their economies and create value.
- Which **leaves no one behind**: tackling unemployment, helping people develop their skills and set up businesses while fighting social exclusion and discrimination will require further investment.
- Which **supports structural reforms**: improving public administration strengthens competitiveness, boosts economic growth and increases the impact of investments, including those co-financed by Cohesion Policy.



<http://europa.eu/!yG83JV>



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