



EuSEE

Advancing EU Cohesion
coverage across
South-East Europe

Newsletter

Dear reader,

Cohesion policy has an impact on the daily lives of Europeans. In these articles, we explore how certain projects are making a difference in various parts of Europe.

We travel to Dubrovnik, where the Trebišnjica river links Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro. A shared resource in Yugoslav times and a strategic weapon during the 1990s wars, it is now jointly managed again, partly thanks to the Interreg project Waterlink.

Between Italy and Croatia, the Interreg project Blue Recharge is reviving a cheap and little-known way to store water underground, managed aquifer recharge, and testing "blue credits" modelled on carbon credits.

In Bulgaria, the mountain town of Bansko has become a magnet for remote workers and digital nomads, a trend that EU-funded projects hope could help counter rural depopulation.

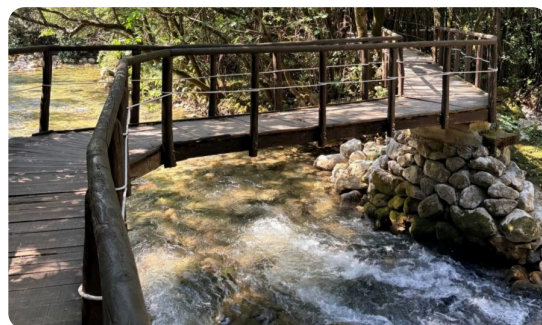
Finally, we turn our attention to the lively debate currently underway in Brussels regarding the **future of cohesion policy**.

This is the fourth and last newsletter of **EuSEE—Advancing EU cohesion coverage across South-East Europe**, a project coordinated by Osservatorio Balcani Caucaso Transeuropa, in collaboration with four media outlets, **Mediapool** in Bulgaria, **Tportal** in Croatia, **EFSYN** in Greece and **Hotnews** in Romania.

Enjoy your reading!

From cooperation to war, to new cooperation: Water in the karst heart of the former Yugoslavia

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro are united not only by a common past, but also by their most precious natural resource: water. **This two-part reportage tells the story of the Trebišnjica, one of the world's longest sinking rivers**, from a shared resource to a crucial factor in the war, and back again to its role today at the heart of cooperation. Read [part one](#) and [part two](#).





Conserving the water beneath our feet: the Adriatic rediscovers groundwater recharge

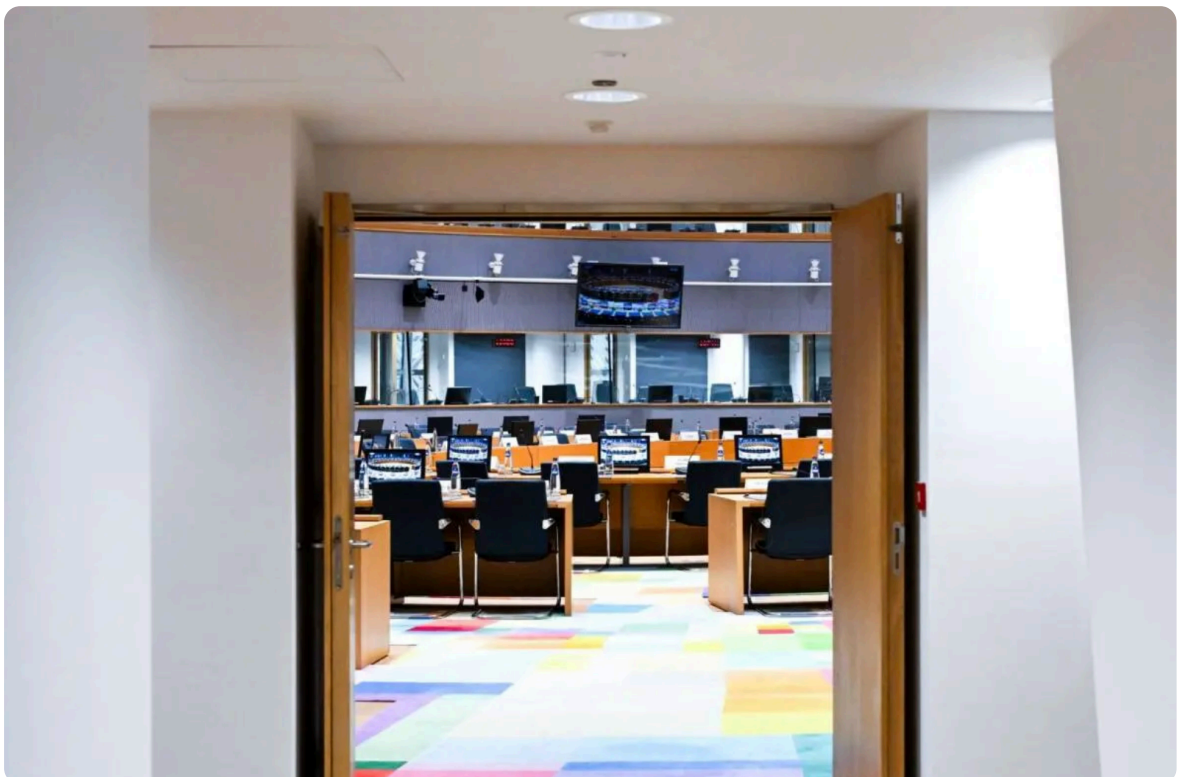
The Blue Recharge project, between Italy and Croatia, focuses on an effective and less invasive technique for storing water than dams. And to incentivize it, it is developing “blue credits” based on carbon credits



Remote working in South-Eastern Europe: Bansko leads the way in Bulgaria

In south-eastern Europe, too, remote working in rural areas is attracting an ever-increasing number of workers seeking a better balance between personal and professional development. Despite ongoing challenges, this trend is now seen as a potential solution to the depopulation of marginalised areas. Our report

The future of cohesion policy



The future of cohesion policy held hostage by EU governments

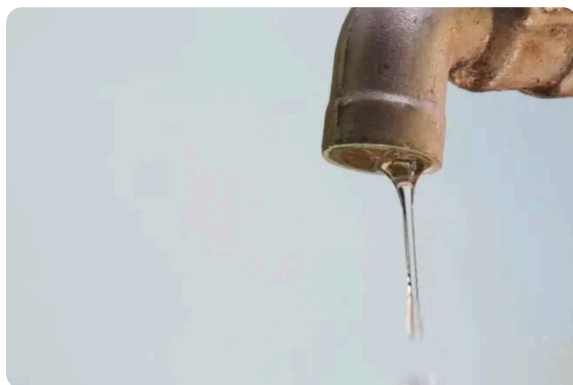
The co-legislators of Parliament and the Council are ready to negotiate the structure of the new common budget, with simpler rules and still separate programs within a revolutionized architecture. But the clash between two opposing fronts of member states over the amount of resources to be allocated threatens to stall the entire process

Watch the registration of our webinar on the future of EU Cohesion Policy



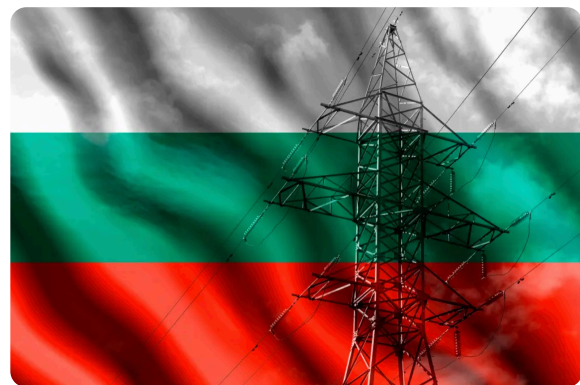
What's next for Europe's regions under the next EU budget? The proposed overhaul of cohesion policy for 2028–2034 period—with greater flexibility, new national and regional partnership plans, and a possible reduction in funding—has sparked a heated debate over how the Union should support its regions and how the future cohesion policy will look like

News from our partners



Water shortages in Greece and EU funds: a missed opportunity

Greece faces serious water supply problems: despite its promises, however, the Greek government has failed to utilise the measures provided by the EU Recovery Fund to tackle



How European billions fuelled Bulgaria's energy paradox

Although originally designed to decarbonise the EU's poorest economy, Brussels' cohesion policy has ended up supporting a textbook example of the 'Jevons paradox'

the situation, and the planned measures on water scarcity and management have largely been abandoned



Romania, new support for innovative startups

The Romanian investment fund Nucleo Ventures, recently created thanks to EU funding through cohesion policy, will provide venture capital support for tech startups ranging from 150,000 to 1.4 million euros. An interview with Valentin Filip, president of the new fund



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