

Regional Policy

What do I need to know before I start?

The Treaty of Rome establishing the European Economic Community in 1957 provided the first basis for the development of a common regional policy in Europe. Two sector funds were then created - the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF). The Directorate-General for Regional Policy was established in the Commission in 1968 to coordinate national policies. The first concrete fund for regional distribution, aimed at assisting the least favored regions, was established in 1975 – namely, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Enlargements led to increasing regional disparities and to the need to undertake further reforms; the ERDF was thus integrated with the ESF and the EAGGF into the Structural Funds in 1988. Community funds allocated to the poorest regions increased following the negotiations leading to the Maastricht Treaty and regional policy became ever more important with the enlargement of the Community.

Languages: Please be aware that although most documents available in our Archives are in French, English or German, some may be in other EU languages. In order to check the languages used in a fonds, please refer to our holdings page. Additionally, some fonds may contain a few files in a language other than those listed in the description.

What can I find at the HAEU?

Specifically concerned with European regional polity-building and policy-making, the fonds available at the HAEU are:

1) *EU institutions*

[Council of Ministers](#)

In the HAEU inventory, matters relating to regional policy discussed in the Council of Ministers are assembled in the section '[Politique régionale](#)'. Since the fonds of the Council of Ministers is organized by year, you need to browse the fonds for each year to access the specific section on regional policy (example for the year [1973](#)).

[Commission](#)

In the Commission's fonds, you will find a specific section for the [DG XVI Regional Policy](#). In addition, you might want to look into the sections relating to the [Secretariat-General](#) and the [Cabinets](#).

[European Parliament](#)

You can find in the European Parliament's fonds relevant information on the development of a common regional policy and the role played by the Parliament in this context. Members of the Parliamentary Assembly created in the 1960s an intergroup to coordinate their work in the field and the [minutes](#) of such meetings are available in the Parliament's fonds. For the Parliament's early history in regional policy, you can also consult the minutes of the parliamentary commissions concerned with regional policy - [Commission de la politique régionale et des transports](#), [Commission de la politique régionale, de l'aménagement du territoire et des transports](#). The proceedings (as well as the reports) of the meetings of the parliamentary commission on regional policy held during the [first](#), [second](#), and [third](#) legislature are also relevant in understanding the evolution of the EU's regional policy.

[European Court of Auditors](#)

You might find it interesting to consult the ECA's annual reports (1977-1997), special reports (1978-1991) and opinions (1977-1997) as well as internal documents, including information documents (1977-1994) and working documents (1977-1994), where you will find documents dealing with regional policy.

[European Investment Bank](#)

Also worthwhile are the [annual reports](#) as well as the sub-fonds '[Aides, dons et subsides exceptionnels](#)' and '[Publications](#)'. In addition, you might want to look into the section devoted to [EIB projects signed between 1959 and 1971](#) regarding EU member states and associated countries.

[Economic and Social Committee](#)

As with the fonds of the Council of Ministers, the inventory is organized by year, each includes a special section for regional policy from 1973 onwards ([example](#) for 1973), while a section on the work of the sub-committee "[Politique régionale](#)" exists for the earlier years.

2) *Corporate bodies*

[Conference of Regions of North-West Europe](#)

The Conference of Regions of North-West Europe was established to promote and develop regional studies and to coordinate such studies across borders. Consulting the Conference's fonds is therefore imperative to understand the development of a common regional policy.

[Council of European Municipalities and Regions](#)

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) was established in 1951 to promote a united Europe by enhancing local and regional contributions. It has been active in a number of policy domains, including regional policy, and you will find useful information in its files.

3) *Individuals*

[Emile Noel](#)

In Noel's private fonds, you can find a specific section on [regional co-operation](#), but also his notes on the European Council and Commission meetings, as well as documents pertaining to the [work of the different DGs](#) of the Commission, during his time as Secretary-General.

[Georges Rencki](#)

In the section '[Politique regionale](#)' of Rencki's fonds, you can find numerous documents regarding his involvement in the development of regional policies at the European level, during his time in the Commission's DG in charge of regional policy, and later as special advisor to the Commission in reforming European regional policy.

[Robert Hull](#)

Hull worked in the UK civil service in the branch concerned with European regional policy and later as Director of Joint Services, for the European Economic and Social Committee and Committee of the Regions. His [private fonds](#) therefore include various documents on the development of regional policies at a European level, specifically in the sub-section '[Joint Services and DG XV](#)'.

[Albert-Marie Gordiani](#)

Gordiani's private fonds include specific sections ([1](#), [2](#)) concerned with the above-mentioned Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), which can thus provide additional information on the role of the Council in the development of a common regional policy.

4) *Oral History*

In addition, take a look at the [oral history holdings](#), which comprise numerous interviews of European politicians and officials, including important figures active in the development of a regional policy at a European level. Below, you can find a list of persons interviewed who addressed the topic of regional policy.

[Albert, Michel](#)

[Bonnemaison, Michel](#)

[Camhis, Marios](#)

[Caspari, Manfred](#)

[Di Carpegna, Ranieri](#)

[Donat, Marcell Von](#)

[Dorr, Noel](#)

[Facini, Carlo](#)

[Flory, Jean](#)

[Flynn, Pdraig](#)

[Froschmaier, Franz](#)

[Jarrett, Robert](#)

[Landaburu, Eneko](#)

[Messina, Carmelo](#)

[Mathijsen, Petrus](#)

[Nass, Klaus Otto](#)

[O'Dwyer, Thomas](#)

[Pearson, John](#)

[Pérez Llorca Rodrigo, José Pedro](#)

[Perissich, Riccardo](#)

[Pujol I Solei, Jordi](#)

[Rencki, Georges](#)

[Romus, Paul](#)

[Ruggiero, Renato](#)

[Saclé, Armand](#)

[Scarascia Mugnozza, Carlo](#)

[Seiler-Albring, Ursula](#)

[Sorensen, Tove Bladjerg](#)

[Sünnen, Robert](#)

[Toffanin, Ezio](#)

[Wathelet, Pierre](#)

[Wilson, Barrie](#)

[Zamaron, Bernard](#)