**PRIN Micro Dataset – Firm Incentives (2000–2024)**

**Recommended data citation**

For the appropriate citation of the data, please use:

"Firm incentives under Cohesion Policy (2000–2024)", edited by Anna Laura Baraldi, Claudia Cantabene, Alessandro De Iudicibus, Giovanni Fosco, based on "OpenCoesione" data for PRIN 2022, The assessment of regional development policies in Italy through a new database (1950s–2000s), OpenCoesione.

**Description and purpose**

The PRIN Micro Dataset – Firm Incentives collects projects financed under Italy's Cohesion Policy that fall within intervention types aimed at: (i) direct support to productive units, (ii) initial subscription or increase of share capital (including spin-offs), and (iii) venture capital and guarantee funds. Data come from the OpenCoesione portal, which publishes official open data drawn from the National Monitoring System.

The dataset was built within the PRIN project titled "The assessment of regional development policies in Italy through a new database (from the 1950s to the 2000s)", with the aim of providing a homogeneous, documented and ready-to-use information base for empirical analyses on the effects of firm incentive policies.

The dataset has two main purposes:

- To provide researchers, analysts and citizens with a tool for knowledge and transparency on firm incentives financed by cohesion funds, in line with OpenCoesione's mission;
- To support PRIN research activities focused on the impact of public policies on local growth, territorial attractiveness and the strengthening of the productive fabric.

The dataset includes only projects uniquely localized in an Italian municipality, so as to allow a direct link between each intervention and the territory where it is implemented. This setting enables coherent micro-territorial analyses, spatial and temporal comparisons, and graphical representations through maps and interactive tables.

**Selection and inclusion criteria**

Projects are included in the dataset only if they meet all of the following conditions:

- CUP nature: correspondence with firm-support interventions (grants/incentives, share capital/spin-offs, venture capital and guarantee funds – nature codes 7 and 8).
- Time coverage: projects started within the 2000–2006, 2007–2013 and 2014–2020 programming cycles, as recorded by the National Monitoring System and published by OpenCoesione (oc_cod_ciclo ∈ {1, 2, 9}).
- Localization rules:

  - Projects with a single municipal location are included without changes.
  - Multi-localized projects are included by replicating records for each associated municipality: all descriptive and financial information remains identical, while only localization variables (region, province, municipal code and name, geographic coordinates) vary.
  - Projects lacking a precise municipal location ("All municipalities", cross-border, international) are excluded.

  This approach ensures that each row uniquely corresponds to a project–municipality pair, a condition necessary for reliable micro-territorial analyses and statistical aggregations.

**Variables and variable description**

The PRIN Dataset – Firm Incentives is characterized by a high level of informational completeness. Each project is described through a rich set of variables that allow detailed analysis of its nature, location, number of involved entities, financial size and implementation status. In addition to official identifiers (CUP and local project codes), the dataset includes information on programming cycles, CUP classifications (nature, typology, sector, sub-sector, category), beneficiary's economic sector (ATECO), territorial localization (region, province, municipality with ISTAT codes and geographic coordinates), implementing and beneficiary entities, financial amounts (public, private, EU), and implementation and progress indicators (commitments, payments, realized cost, procedural and financial status).

Financial amounts (funding, costs and payments) are expressed in euros and deflated to 2021 using ISTAT indices, reflecting the implementation status

recorded at the time of the most recent OpenCoesione update. The version used for this elaboration refers to the April 2024 update. Temporary differences may arise due to alignments between information systems, re-programming or administrative corrections.

The presence of the municipal ISTAT code is a necessary condition for inclusion in the base version; changes in municipal names or codes over time are managed according to OpenCoesione conventions. CUP "nature" categories follow the official Codice Unico di Progetto classification.

**Sector harmonization**

A central element in building the dataset is the definition and harmonization of the economic activity sector of projects. To achieve this, an internal classification system was developed based on sector_id (numeric code) and sector (textual description).

The main methodological objective was to harmonize two different sources: (1) the historical database on incentives under the Intervento Straordinario for industrial investments (1959–1993), which adopted a proprietary sector classification not directly comparable with recent standards, and (2) the OpenCoesione database, which uses sector categories defined in the CUP record layout and official monitoring codifications.

This required a systematic recoding of original categories to make the two heterogeneous data sources interoperable across periods and policy instruments.

Thanks to this harmonization, a single sector taxonomy is now available, enabling comparisons of projects and interventions across different periods. This allows the linkage of the Intervento Straordinario historical series with contemporary cohesion policies, supporting long-run comparative analyses of public incentives to firms, by sectoral destination and territorial impact, and paving the way for the integration of the two databases.


**Annual data by sector and public funding (1999–2023)**

In addition to the micro version at the project level, data were aggregated by municipality and by province to build two complementary territorial datasets. This aggregation produced an annual time series from 1999 to 2023 reporting, for each territory, total public incentives received.

Information was organized according to a double synthesis criterion:

- Economic activity sector (using the unified taxonomy based on sector_id and sector_name).
- Public funding source (EU, national and local).

This structure allows the dataset to report, for each year and territory, how many public incentives a municipality or province received in a given sector, providing a coherent panel base to analyze spatial and temporal patterns in the distribution of incentives and enabling integration with other statistical and economic sources.

**Sources and methodological notes**

The dataset is based on OpenCoesione data, which publishes official information from the National Monitoring System (SNM) on European structural and investment funds and national co-financing in open data formats. CUP record layouts and classifications (nature, typology, sector, sub-sector and category) follow national and EU monitoring rules.

The version used here refers to the April 2024 update. While OpenCoesione is updated approximately every two months, temporary differences may occur due to alignments between information systems, re-programming or administrative corrections.

Financial amounts (funding, costs, commitments and payments) are expressed in euros and deflated to 2021 using ISTAT indices to ensure comparability over time.

Finally, municipal ISTAT codes were harmonized according to OpenCoesione standard conventions; historical changes (mergers, suppressions, newly established municipalities) were handled to ensure continuity in longitudinal analyses.

**Appendix – Variables**

| Variable | Description | Source |
|---|---|---|
| cod_locale_progetto | Local project identifier in monitoring systems (may coincide with or complement the CUP). | OpenCoesione |
| cup | Codice Unico di Progetto – official national project | OpenCoesione |

| | identifier. | |
|---|---|---|
| oc_titolo_progetto | Official project title/name. | OpenCoesione |
| oc_cod_ciclo | Programming cycle code (1=2000–2006, 2=2007–2013, 9=2014–2020). | OpenCoesione |
| oc_descr_ciclo | Text description of the programming cycle. | OpenCoesione |
| oc_cod_tema_sintetico | Code of the synthetic policy theme (macro-category). | OpenCoesione |
| oc_tema_sintetico | Text description of the synthetic theme (e.g., R&I, Employment, Environment). | OpenCoesione |
| cup_cod_natura | CUP "nature" code (general intervention type). | CUP / OpenCoesione |
| cup_descr_natura | Text description of CUP nature. | CUP / OpenCoesione |
| cup_cod_tipologia | CUP typology code (more detailed level). | CUP / OpenCoesione |
| cup_descr_tipologia | Text description of CUP typology. | CUP / OpenCoesione |
| cup_cod_settore | CUP sector code. | CUP / OpenCoesione |
| cup_descr_settore | Text description of CUP sector. | CUP / OpenCoesione |
| cup_cod_sottosettore | CUP sub-sector code. | CUP / OpenCoesione |
| cup_descr_sottosettore | Text description of CUP | CUP / |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | sub-sector. | OpenCoesione |
| cup_cod_categoria | CUP category code. | CUP / OpenCoesione |
| cup_descr_categoria | Text description of CUP category. | CUP / OpenCoesione |
| cod_ateco_sogg | ATECO code of implementing/beneficiary entity. | OpenCoesione |
| descrizione_ateco_sogg | Text description of ATECO code. | OpenCoesione |
| sector_id | Internal sector classification code. | PRIN processing |
| settore | Sector description associated with sector_id. | PRIN processing |
| oc_cod_tipo_aiuto | State-aid type code. | OpenCoesione |
| oc_descr_tipo_aiuto | Text description of aid type. | OpenCoesione |
| oc_macroarea | Macro-area (Mezzogiorno, Centro-Nord). | OpenCoesione |
| den_regione | Region of project location. | OpenCoesione |
| den_prov | Province of project location. | OpenCoesione |
| cod_com24 | ISTAT 2024 municipal code. | PRIN processing |
| LON | Longitude of municipal location. | OpenCoesione |
| LAT | Latitude of municipal location. | OpenCoesione |

| _PRO_COM91 | ISTAT 1991 municipal code (historical). | PRIN processing |
|---|---|---|
| den_pro_com | Municipality name of location. | OpenCoesione |
| oc_finanz_ue_netto | EU funding share, net of reductions. | OpenCoesione |
| oc_finanz_privato_netto | Private funding share. | OpenCoesione |
| oc_finanz_tot_pub_netto | Total public funding share (national + regional + local). | OpenCoesione |
| oc_costo_coesione | Total project cost attributable to Cohesion Policy. | OpenCoesione |
| impegni | Formally committed amounts. | OpenCoesione |
| pagamenti | Payments made (euros, deflated to 2021). | OpenCoesione |
| costo_realizzato | Estimated realized cost calculated by OpenCoesione. | OpenCoesione |
| project_start_year | Project start year. | OpenCoesione |
| expected_finalprojectendyear | Expected completion year. | OpenCoesione |
| Finalprojectendyear | Actual completion year (if available). | OpenCoesione |
| oc_stato_finanziario | Financial status (e.g., ongoing, completed). | OpenCoesione |
| oc_stato_progetto | Overall implementation status. | OpenCoesione |
| oc_stato_procedurale | Procedural status (e.g., pending, in execution, | OpenCoesione |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | completed). | |
| data_aggiornamento | Date of last data update. | OpenCoesione |
| oc_codfisc_beneficiario | Beneficiary/implementing entity tax code. | OpenCoesione |
| oc_denom_beneficiario | Beneficiary/implementing entity name. | OpenCoesione |
| oc_link | Link to the OpenCoesione project page. | OpenCoesione |
| year_pag | Reference year of payments. | OpenCoesione |
| Pagamenti per anno | Amount disbursed in the reference year. | OpenCoesione |