

HEADING 1B: Economic, social and territorial cohesion**European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)****Lead DG: REGIO**

Associated DGs: NEAR

I. Overview***What the programme is about?***

The ERDF aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by reducing disparities between its regions and supporting the full integration of less developed regions within the EU's internal market.

EU added value of the programme

Solid evidence justifies an EU-level intervention to fulfil the long-term cohesion policy objectives. Cohesion Policy brings together different governance levels at European, national and regional level. The main advantages of Cohesion Policy as compared to resources being spent solely by Member States are the following:

- **Aligning investment to EU priorities.** Once EU priorities are agreed by all Member States, Cohesion Policy can ensure that resources are aligned with and concentrated on such priorities and are not spread across too many issues having only local or regional importance. As a result of this approach, EU priorities are given preference across the investment fields covered by Cohesion Policy, often influencing national investment policies thus resulting in a coordinated EU-wide action, key to tackling global challenges. This is done inter alia through support to research and innovation, the competitiveness of SMEs, the digital agenda, the shift towards a low-carbon economy and climate change, as well as new challenges such as migration. The policy also takes into account the priorities of other sectoral EU policies such as the TEN-T priorities and the European Energy Union where the completion of strategic EU infrastructure is essential for removing missing links and bottlenecks for the better functioning of the single market.
- **Contributing to economic governance:** having in place specific provisions designed to establish a close relationship between the ESIF and sound economic governance, Cohesion Policy incentivises (through in-built mechanisms to improve fiscal and macroeconomic governance, such as ex ante or macroeconomic conditionalities) and provides concrete support for structural reforms through its link (i.e. via programming or re-programming) to Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) established in the framework of the European Semester. Moreover, empirical evidence suggests that the ex-ante conditionalities introduced in the current programming period have played so far a significant role in improving application of EU legislation in Member States, as well as in fostering structural reforms. All these have played an important role for improving the overall investment climate in the Member States having a positive broader spill-over effect on investments beyond Cohesion policy.
- Cohesion Policy has consistently shown a **continuous drive to improve its result-orientation** across successive programming periods. In 2014-2020 the orientation towards results and impacts of the policy has been further strengthened owing notably to the reinforced intervention logic underpinning investments, improvements in the indicator system and in reporting requirements. This period also saw the introduction of a performance framework linked to a 6 % performance reserve designed to incentivise quality implementation.
- **Multiannual programming provides stability, certainty and sustainability** to investment plans in MSs, reducing their vulnerability across economic and political cycles and improving prospects for implementation on the ground. The multiannual nature of Cohesion Policy enhances managerial and institutional capacity, inducing – through its delivery system and the support mechanisms provided by the Commission – institutional and administrative change, promoting long-term planning, mobilising a wide range of partners, diffusing a culture of evaluation and monitoring of public policies, and reinforcing control and audit capacities. This strengthened administrative capacity also positively influences the management of domestic policies and improves in general governance in Member States.
- **The place-based approach** of ERDF programming maximises the territorial dimension of the policy: in particular, it allows 1) the identification of development needs specific to each territory, 2) the definition of appropriate multi thematic investment strategies aligned to EU priorities and 3) better conditions for sound implementation of those investments on the ground through mobilisation of national, regional and local players, as well as civil society, thus ensuring ownership of objectives and achievements. In this way, the efficiency of the investments in regions and cities can be strengthened and, consequently, European citizens can experience the positive effects of EU-policy in a very direct way, which in turn favourably shapes their view of the EU and re-establish their trust in the Union. The smart specialisation strategies, promoted by Cohesion policy are an excellent example of the benefits of this approach.
- **Interregional cooperation and the exchange of experience:** Cooperation – both cross-border and across the EU – is an area where the ERDF brings clear European added value. This applies not just to the European territorial cooperation (ETC), but across the entire Cohesion Policy, where programmers can benefit from a wider exchange of experiences and practices supported by knowledge sharing platforms and thus follow good practice examples and increase efficiency and

effectiveness of investment. A clear added value is provided as well by broader territorial strategies, the so-called macro-regional strategies, such as the Baltic, Danube, Adriatic and Ionian or Alpine strategies.

- **Concentration of resources on the less developed and transitional regions:** Cohesion Policy supports key investments which would not otherwise take place in poorer regions. Recent data show that the ESIF constitute a high share (up to 60 %, re: 7th Cohesion Report) of the public investments in a significant number of MSs over the period 2015-2017. This enhances the potential for jobs and growth and contributes to a more harmonious development of the Union as a whole. The Cohesion policy supports the development of the Single Market, while also producing spill-over effects from less developed regions to the rest of Europe, notably via increased connectivity and trade flows (the average net positive impact of 2007-2013 programmes for non-cohesion countries is estimated at 0.4 % of GDP by 2023).
- **Effective pooling of resources from different sources:** Cohesion Policy has demonstrated a capacity to foster the pooling and leveraging of finances from different EU and national sources and provides a clear added value compared to purely national resources. This is done through its investment framework that facilitates the combination of the ESIF and the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), an enhanced use of financial instruments, as well as effective complementarities with other EU funding instruments.

Implementation mode

The ERDF is delivered through shared management in over 290 national, regional and Interreg programmes. Under the shared management mode, the co-legislators fix the legal framework and the overall funding and determine the allocations by Member States and category of region. The Commission adopts the programmes. As regards implementation, the Commission cooperates with Member States' administrations (at national, regional and local level), which are in charge of the operational implementation

II. Programme Implementation Update

Implementation status (2017-2019)

The assessment of the performance of the 2014-2020 ERDF programmes is based on progress made in terms of both financial implementation and indicator achievements. The **tracking of financial implementation** relies on data on project selection rates and EU payment rates. Project selection rates continued to increase significantly since end-2018, reaching 90 % at end 2019 for a total amount of 365,000 projects. This corresponds to EUR 248 billion at the end of 2019 already allocated to specific projects supporting the EU 2020 objectives for jobs and growth as against EUR 205.7 billion by end-2018 (74 % of total) thus continuing the sharp increasing trend of the past years. The end-2019 data shows rather homogeneous progress across most of the Member States, with only a couple of them lagging significantly behind EU average and few other Member States where the budget of the selected projects exceeds the 2014-2020 allocation. The past three years of implementation have been fundamental in putting the programmes well on track to deliver sustainable social and economic benefits.

As for payments, in the first half of the 2014-2023 spending period, the EU payments tend to be low in line with the previous programming periods. This is mainly due to the nature of Cohesion policy investments which have a long start-up phase (planning, programming, authorisations) without significant financial execution. In addition the regulatory provisions of the 2014-2020 period (e.g. N+3 rule, the level of pre-financing) have provided limited incentives to a fast start of implementation in Member States.. The ERDF financial execution rate (pre-financing and interim payments minus recoveries) stand at 34.5 % at end 2019. In line with the sharp increase in project selection rates over the last three years the implemented projects are expected to generate significant EU payments in the years to come.

In terms of **tracking performance**, indicator targets are set in ERDF programming documents and forecasts for indicators from selected operations and implemented values are reported on an annual basis. It is worth noting that there is always a time lag for investment policies between selection of operations and implementation on the ground. Past evidence shows that the bulk of tangible achievements traditionally take place only in the second half of the programming cycle. Many of the operations funded by ERDF, such as infrastructural investments, have a long implementation cycle, while others such as integrated urban development investments require comprehensive administrative organisations and arrangements in place before they could start. The nature of those investments explains the time gap between the start of operations and the reporting of achievements.

Key achievements

The Commission has agreed with Member States on the end-of-period (2023) achievements targets for ERDF/CF. This included common indicators and programme specific indicators. The legislation did not require the setting of annual targets or milestones (except for 2018 milestones for a subset of the indicators). Indicator forecasts from the selection of projects provide important information on the project pipeline over the period and can be compared to the indicator targets. The data from the latest reporting exercise reflecting the situation at the end of 2018 (transmitted by the Member States to the Commission at the end of June 2019) are presented in the performance tables below. (NB: Depending on the demand for different types of support and changing economic conditions the 2023 targets may be revised when justified by the Member States.)

The achievements up to end-2018 vary considerably across and within Member States, in line with the different rates of progress in implementation of the underlying operational programmes. In aggregate terms, the actions financed have already delivered:

- Support to 414 000 enterprises, of which more than 79 000 are supported by financial instruments (against 201 000 and 48 850 enterprises at end-2017)
- EUR 7.4 billion of private investment leveraged, matching public support to enterprises (grants) which is a sharp increase from EUR 2.6 billion at end-2017;
- Almost EUR 1.6 billion of private investment leveraged, matching public support to enterprises (non-grants) against the EUR 580 million at end-2017;
- 108 650 jobs created along with 5 300 new researchers employed, which is a significant increase compared to 40 000 jobs and 2 300 new researchers at end-2017;
- 36 800 researchers working in improved research infrastructures against 23 800 at end-2017;
- 163 750 households with an improved energy consumption classification which is a sharp increase from 65 000 at end-2017;
- 240 200 000 kWh/year saving of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings, which is a sharp increase from the 24 559 000 kWh/year at end-2017;
- 27.5 million people benefitting from improved health services which is a significant increase compared to 15.3 million people at end-2017;
- 2.8 million hectares of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status (against 1.6 million hectares at end-2017);
- 2 600 km of reconstructed or upgraded roads which is a sharp increase compared to 700 km at end-2017

Evaluations/studies conducted

In line with the regulatory requirements, all the operational programmes were required to submit to their monitoring committees an evaluation plan within one year from adoption. According to the plans, the programmes were expected to carry out around 1500 evaluations for ERDF/CF over the period. Some of the latest updates of the plans have refined the number of the evaluations planned and their timeline, without affecting the thematic coverage.

To date, more than 700 evaluations have been completed by Member States. This includes also evaluations referring to the period 2007-2013. The preliminary findings on the impacts of interventions funded under 2014-2020 programmes, drawn on the basis of the most reliable evaluations carried out by Member States, point to positive results and offer recommendations to develop the interventions in order to consolidate and extend their benefits.

Within the framework of its own evaluation activities, the Commission completed its second ex post evaluation of major projects supported by ERDF/CF between 2000 and 2013 analysing the long-term contribution of large-scale investment projects on economic and environmental development, quality of life and the well-being of citizens. The first part of the evaluation, focused on transport, was finalised in June 2018. The second part focused on environment and was finalised in September 2019. The Staff Working Document based on the findings of the studies were published in February 2020 ⁽¹⁾. Both evaluations have confirmed the importance of EU support to major projects in achieving EU objectives. By supporting large-scale transport projects, cohesion policy has in fact made a significant contribution to improving connectivity at EU and national level and encouraged the development of sustainable transport. Large-scale environmental infrastructure projects have made a major contribution to compliance with the acquis and broader EU sustainable development strategies. In most cases, the objectives would not have been achieved or their achievement would have been delayed in the absence of a critical proportion of EU funding. For both types of project, assistance provided by the EU institutions contributed to the development of administrative capacity and institutional learning.

Further to that, the Commission is proceeding with the mid-term review of JASPERS. Launched in 2018, the evaluation covers the implementation and performance of JASPERS activities for the programming period 2014-2020, covering a reference period up to end 2018. The evaluation will support the ongoing discussions on the role of JASPERS for the future programming period and it is expected to be finalised in the third quarter of 2020.

The study of the Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) is also ongoing, with the purpose to assess whether the UIA is achieving its goals and to analyse how far the instrument can be improved and simplified in the perspective of its renewal as a component of the European Urban Initiative of the post-2020 proposed ERDF/CF Regulation. The final report is expected in the fourth quarter of 2020.

In the second half of 2019, the Commission also launched an ex post evaluation of investment projects in research and technological development (RTD) infrastructures, competence centres and activities financed by the ERDF in 2007-2013. This

⁽¹⁾ [SWD\(2020\) 41 final](#) and [SWD\(2020\) 43 final](#)

evaluation aims to investigate the impact of investments which, due to their scope and nature, take longer to implement and even longer to yield results and therefore is planned for some years after the actions have been completed. It will analyse the factors that contributed to the actions' success or failure and the mechanisms of change under different socioeconomic conditions.

Using the same approach, in the course of 2020 the Commission will start an ex post evaluation on the information and communication technologies (ICT) investments supported by the ERDF in 2007-2013. In 2020, the Commission will also launch an evaluation of e-Cohesion, the electronic data exchange system to facilitate the exchange of documents and data between the beneficiaries of ESI Funds and the relevant authorities.

Forthcoming implementation

As the main EU investment instrument for supporting the delivery of Commission priorities, Cohesion Policy has become a key part of Europe's economic governance and an increasingly important means of addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation. ERDF interventions are focusing and will continue to focus on the twin transition to (1) a modern, innovative economy, ready for the digital revolution and (2) the climate neutral, circular economy. In line with the cohesion policy orientations defined for the 2014-2020 period funding will continue to be strategically invested in research and innovation, support to small businesses and digital technologies, thereby contributing to the EU's smart growth objectives. Funding will also be essential for EU's sustainable growth: thanks to the highest EU budget ever allocated to investments in energy, environment, climate and sustainable transport, a significant contribution to steering Europe on the path to a carbon neutral economy is being made. These investments will continue to make a key contribution to European priorities.

The current policy focus and its adaptable framework are allowing the ERDF to make a major contribution to new and emerging challenges. Most funding areas already support UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), climate adaptation and risk prevention actions, and this focus can be boosted within the operational programmes as needed.

Based on past experience, the Commission expects that implementation rates for investment expenditure and the delivery of outputs and results will continue to increase in 2020. The approaching end of the eligibility period (31 December 2023) will incentivise better spending in terms of achieving programme objectives.

Outlook for the 2021-2027 period

On 2 May 2018, the Commission adopted a proposal for the next multi-annual financial framework for the period 2021-2027 (COM(2018)322 final, 2.5.2018). This includes the European Regional Development Fund ('ERDF') and the Cohesion Fund.

This ambition was further developed with the adoption on 29 May 2018 of the legislative architecture for cohesion policy, notably comprising:

- Common Regulation for 7 shared management funds (COM(2018)375 final 2018/0196 (COD)): European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), the Cohesion Fund (CF), the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), The Asylum and Migration Fund (AMIF), the Internal Security Fund (ISF) and the Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI).
- Specific regulation for the ERDF and Cohesion Fund (COM/2018/372 final – 2018/0197 (COD)).

Legislative negotiations on the rules governing the 2021-2027 programming period are on-going. The co-legislators achieved a provisional common understanding in December 2019 on the three biggest blocks (programming, management and control, enabling conditions and performance). In early 2020 technical negotiations continued and the co-legislators' aim is to conclude all issues by end June 2020. This would not include the MFF-related provisions as well as the Just Transition Fund proposal where inter-institutional negotiations are likely to start only after the summer. The biggest question for the overall conclusion of the legislative package remains when agreement can be reached on the MFF as a whole. A late MFF-agreement between the Parliament and the Council and the time needed to transpose the related issues in the legislative texts may risk a late finalisation of the legislative package.

Progress in preparation of the post-2020 programming period

Taking into account that programming negotiations take two years on average, the Commission launched the preparations for the 2021-2027 programming more than half a year earlier than for the 2014-2020 period. The 2019 European Semester provided dedicated investment guidance on the programming of cohesion policy funds in an Annex D of the country reports. Further to that, investment CSRs were proposed by the Commission in the 2019 Spring Semester package and later adopted by the Council.

In the spring 2019, the **launch events** marking the start of the informal dialogue on the new programming period took place in all Member States. Member States were asked to send **roadmaps** by the end of June 2019. Based on the information provided in the roadmaps, the majority of Member States expect to submit their draft documents in the first half of 2020 and the official submission should follow in the second half of the year.

The aim for the Commission is to have constructive **informal dialogue** with the Member States until the new legislation is adopted in order to be able to approve as many programmes as possible as soon as the regulations come in force and start the implementation immediately.

III. Programme key facts and performance framework

1. Financial programming

Legal Basis	Period of application	Reference Amount (EUR million)
Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006	2014 – 2020	

	Financial Programming (EUR million)							Total Programme
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Total	17 080,4(*)	33 265,5	26 933,9	29 266,9	30 248,4	31 146,2	32 013,1	199 954,5

(*)The appropriations for the year 2014 have been reviewed to take account of the transfer to subsequent years of the allocations not used in 2014 (reprogramming exercise carried-out in 2015 in accordance with Article 19 of the Multiannual Financial Framework Regulation).

2. Implementation rates

	2019				2020			
	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate	CA	Impl. Rate	PA	Impl. Rate
Voted appropriations	31 148,062	99,99 %	25 648,072	100,00 %	32 012,615	98,48 %	27 329,778	28,23 %
Authorised appropriations (*)	35 245,982	99,99 %	30 346,710	95,02 %	32 286,673	97,92 %	29 089,876	31,72 %

(*) Authorised appropriations include voted appropriations, appropriations originating from assigned revenues (internal and external) as well as carried-over and reconstituted appropriations; the execution rate is calculated on 15 April 2020

3. Performance information

Programme performance

The 2014-2020 ERDF and Cohesion policy programmes continue to contribute to at least five of the priorities of the Juncker Commission through investments in key policy areas in line with the Investment Plan for Europe. The programming was aligned to contribute to the EU's effort to overcome the structural weaknesses in its economies, improve competitiveness and productivity and underpin a sustainable social market economy as identified through the European Semester country specific recommendations.

The focus of the 2014-2020 programmes on the intervention logic and on the wider use of fund specific common indicators has led to more robust and coherent performance reporting on the investment actions and outputs. The programme reports submitted in mid-2019, in most cases, present a rich source of information on performance, in terms of common indicators. Generally, the reported values show a plausible relationship between the indicator targets and values from selected projects. The end 2019 financial data provides the most recent insights on investment progress.

The more extensive use of EU common indicators for 2014-2020 has significantly improved the information available on performance. That said target setting during the 2014-2020 negotiations for 2023 was challenging, not least because of the economic conditions following the 2008-2012 economic crisis and the introduction of new common indicators. As regards the milestone figures included in the following tables, it should also be noted that they are purely indicative estimates that should not be used to identify cases of underperformance. 2018-milestone-values are not applicable for certain indicators as milestone values had to establish only for a subset of the indicators in the operational programmes. If at the EU aggregate level the subset for a certain indicator represents a small share of the total, the milestone value is not representative to illustrate performance objectives.

When interpreting performance in relation to the targets over time the multi annual character of interventions (especially in cases of infrastructure interventions) and long programme cycle need to be factored in. Actual achievements may not be visible in early years while the experience from 2007-2013 is that many infrastructures are delivered only at the end of the period. The implementation of the 2014-2020 programming period lasts until 2023 (n+3 rule), therefore the 2018 achievement values refer to the situation at the 5th year of a 10 years long implementation cycle.

The common indicators cover an estimated 50-60 % of the actions funded and they give a partial picture on the performance (programmes use over 8 000 specific indicators beyond the 46 common indicators, which cannot be aggregated at EU level due to their specific nature). Target values for common indicators can change (the EU legislation allows for programme amendments

during the implementation period) and are mainly driven by changes in national or regional development needs, changing economic conditions, variability in demand for different supports and the reallocation of funding within and across theme.

At EU level, the following overall performance trends are evident from the monitoring of the ERDF:

- Overall project selection rates at 90 % of planned investment are slightly ahead of the 2007-2013 period. Spending by projects and EU interim payments at around 35 % are, however, slower than the same point in the last period.
- By thematic objective, project spending is well advanced in areas such as SME competitiveness and sustainable transport. On the other hand, the average spending rates for ICT, low carbon economy and environmental investments are lagging (as was the case in 2007-2013).
- The bulk of countries are clustered around the EU averages for selection and spending rates. That said there is some diversity with reported progress with ES and SK lagging, while BG, CY, FI NL, PT, and NL are above average.
- The performance data below reflects the mid 2019 reporting on common indicators. Overall, positive trends are registered for many indicators, with the pace of reported achievements gaining momentum across many investment areas.
- Areas of good progress in indicator implemented values are reported under ‘key achievements’. More detail is provided by specific objective in the next section.
- Some indicators with more important gaps between the decided and implemented values reflect the well known time lag between project investment decisions and results. In a number of cases, the high level of project selection is expected to translate into achieved outputs only late in the period.
- The 2019 reporting exercise also suggests that many of the 2023 targets could be exceeded (the programmes set target in 2014-2015 in the context of exiting the economic crisis and tight public budgets). A wave of programme modification in 2020 is expected to see a general rise in many of the target values, which will then provide a more accurate picture of expected achievements.
- On the other hand, the level of project selection and reported achievements has not yet moved significantly in certain investment areas (e.g. certain rail investments, users on smart energy grids, GHG emission reductions, waste recycling capacity and rehabilitation of land). These are areas where obstacles to implementation are known and/or capturing the indicators values is challenging.
- For some common indicators (i.e. those measuring population benefiting from risk prevention and health interventions) the national and regional programmes report challenges in aggregating the values from multiple projects to accurately estimate the net benefiting population. The annual reporting cycles are addressing these challenges to ensure accurate data is available for later evaluation work.

Through Member States’ the annual reporting and the Commission’s checks on the consistency and plausibility of the values reported a clearer picture of performance will develop as we approach the closure phase. Deviations from targets are being closely scrutinised and followed-up in cooperation with the Member States affected by implementation difficulties.

All reported data are available online through the ESIF Open data platform based on indicators reported by the Member States. This platform offers great transparency and encourages ‘peer pressure’ in reporting timely and reliable data. Beyond transparency, it promotes excellence and communication and provides a comparison tool enabling analysis and research. It is regularly updated and expanded to include new features designed to improve its user-friendliness and extend the type of information provided ⁽²⁾.

The Cohesion policy programmes were subject to a performance review in the course of 2019. The review consisted of checking what the programmes delivered until the end of 2018 against the performance milestones set for 2018 that were agreed at the beginning of the programming period. The performance review showed that some 75 % of the ERDF operational programmes’ priorities have achieved their mid-term milestones, suggesting that these programmes are on track to deliver their commitments by the end of the programming period. The performance reserve, amounting to 6 % of the ERDF allocation set-aside at programming, was definitively allocated to the priorities that met their performance milestones (EUR 8.6 billion ERDF contribution). The performance reserve from non-performing priorities (EUR 2.7 billion ERDF contribution) is reallocated to performing ones in order to optimise investments.

As required by Article 175 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Eighth Cohesion report, will be presented in 2021 and review how cohesion has evolved in the EU over the recent past and assesses the impact on this of national policies, cohesion policy and other EU policies.

As the 2014-2020 programme period moves towards its closure phase (end-2023) the Commission will accelerate preparations to conduct the ex post evaluation. Those preparations will start later in 2020. It is during the evaluation phase that the wider impacts and achievements of programming can be assessed.

⁽²⁾ ESIF Open data platform <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/>

General objectives

General Objective 1: To reduce disparities between the levels of development of the various regions, in particular for rural areas, areas affected by industrial transition, and regions which suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps and to contribute to achieving the targets set out in the Europe 2020 strategy of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, and in particular towards the achievement of quantitative headline targets identified in that strategy

Indicator 1: Employment rate by sex, age group 20-64								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2016	Milestones foreseen							2020
71.1 %							75.00 %	75.00 %
	Actual results							
	69.2 %	70.1 %	71.1 %	72.2 %	73.2 %			

Indicator 2: Gross domestic expenditure on R & D (GERD)								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2016	Milestones foreseen							2020
2.03 %							3.00 %	3.00 %
	Actual results							
	2.02 %	2.03 %	2.04 %	2.07 %	2.12 %			

Indicator 3: Greenhouse gas emissions, base year 1990								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2016	Milestones foreseen							2020
77.60							74.00	74.00
	Actual results							
	77.52	78.11	77.81	78.34	76.81			

Methodology: Index 1990 = 100

Indicator 4: Share of renewables in gross final energy consumption								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
16.7 %							20.00 %	20.00 %
	Actual results							
	16.22 %	16.73 %	17.00 %	17.48 %	17.98 %			

Indicator 5: Energy intensity of the economy (proxy indicator for Energy savings, which is under development)								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
Primary energy consumption: 1529,1							1 483.00	1 483.00
	Actual results							
	1 512.35	1 537.61	1 544.93	1 562.40	1 551.92			
2015	Milestones foreseen							2020
Final energy consumption: 1082.2							1 086.00	1 086.00
	Actual results							
	1 067.58	1 090.09	1 110.02	1 122.93	1 124.14			

Unit of measure: Million tonnes of oil equivalent (TOE)

Indicator 6: Early leavers from education and training by sex; Tertiary educational attainment by sex, age group 30-34

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Early School Leavers: Total: 11.2 %								< 10 %
	Actual results							
	11.2 %	11.0 %	10.7 %	10.6 %	10.6 %			
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Early School Leavers: Female: 9,6 %								< 10 %
	Actual results							
	12.7 %	12.4 %	12.2 %	12.1 %	12.2 %			
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Early School Leavers: Male: 12,7 %								< 10 %
	Actual results							
	9.6 %	9.5 %	9.2 %	8.9 %	8.9 %			
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Younger generation: Total: 38 %								> 40 %
	Actual results							
	37.9 %	38.7 %	39.2 %	39.9 %	40.7 %			
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Younger generation: Female: 42,3 %								> 40 %
	Actual results							
	33.6 %	34.0 %	34.4 %	34.9 %	35.7 %			
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
Younger generation: Male: 33,6 %								> 40 %
	Actual results							
	42.3 %	43.4 %	43.9 %	44.9 %	45.8 %			

Indicator 7: People at risk of poverty or social exclusion								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2015	Milestones foreseen							2023
116 200								< 96 200
	Actual results							
	122 026	119 077	118 065	112 925	110 235			

Comment: Simulations based on economic models (namely QUEST and RHOMOLO) suggest a positive and significant impact of cohesion policy interventions on GDP and employment during and after the implementation of operational programmes. In the EU-12, programmes of the 2007-2013 period are expected to have increased the level of GDP by 2,7 % per year between 2007 and 2016 and employment by around 735,000 units. Programmes of the 2014-2020 period are expected to increase the level of GDP by 1,7 % per year between 2014 and 2023 in the EU-12.

However, it must be noted that the estimates of impact delivered are to a large extent dependent on the assumptions built into these models.

Source: Eurostat

Unit of measure: in thousand persons

Specific objectives

Specific Objective 1: Strengthening research, technological development and innovation

Performance

EUR 65 billion are currently allocated for investment into strengthen research, technological development and innovation. ERDF is the main source of R & D investment in 12 EU Member States. By the end of 2019, more than 19 500 firms benefited from ERDF schemes promoting cooperation with research institutes. An impressive average increase of 1445 % of the result values between 2016 and 2018 highlights that the 2023 targets remain within reach. Nevertheless, with all indicators below the 50 % mark and an average of 28,3 % accomplishment rate this field remains an ambitious and productive field throughout the next three years.

Indicator 1: Number of new researchers in supported entities								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							28 536
	68	285	693	2 327	5 342			

Unit of measure: Full time equivalent

Indicator 2: Number of enterprises cooperating with research institutions								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							62 181
	2	77	640	7 764	19 671			

Unit of measure: Full time equivalent

Indicator 3: Number of researchers working in improved research infrastructure facilities								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							92 256
	364	6 959	13 873	23 825	36 774			

Unit of measure: Enterprises

Indicator 4: Private investment matching public support in innovation or R & D projects								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							14 085 424 324
	81 958 544	324 827 483	802 694 672	1 235 370 214	2 124 433 268			

Unit of measure: EUR

Indicator 5: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the market products								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							28 158
	23	70	595	3 013	11 830			

Unit of measure: Enterprises

Indicator 6: Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target

2014	Milestones foreseen						2023
0							62 474
	Actual results						
	23	89	619	3 334	14 317		

Unit of measure: Enterprises

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Project selection rate (%)	13 03 60		
Number of projects selected	13 03 61		
Spending	13 03 62		
	13 03 63		
	13 03 64 01		

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Project selection rate (%)	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			27 %	53 %	73 %		
Number of projects selected	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			14.226	30.729	52.152		
Spending	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			878 133 181,84	3 528 830 401.05	11 215 804 006.61		

* No values for yearly outputs are defined for the 2014-2020 programmes.

Specific Objective 2: Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies

Performance

The overall allocation to digital economy themes for the complete programming period stands at EUR 18.4 billion. This makes ERDF the main EU investment tool for digitalisation of the public sector and SMEs. With nearly 3 million additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps across the EU almost 30 % of the 2023 target has been accomplished.

Indicator 1: Additional households with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen						2023	
0	Actual results						11 028 096	
		0	863 916	1 395 775	2 989 418			

Comment: No milestone figure concerning this indicator associated with specific objective 2 is included in the table above, as the programmes which include this indicator in the performance framework where milestones are set represent a small share of the total, which render the milestone value available not representative at EU level.

Unit of measure: Households

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Project selection rate (%)	13 03 60		
Number of projects selected	13 03 61		
Spending	13 03 62		
	13 03 63		
	13 03 64 01		

Outputs	Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)
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		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Project selection rate (%)	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			18 %	47 %	63 %		
Number of projects selected	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			1 465	5 485	7 773		
Spending	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			258 290 110,75	746 377 092.31	2 358 214 057.66		

* No values for yearly outputs are defined for the 2014-2020 programmes.

Specific Objective 3: Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises

Performance

Still off the 2023 target, the indicators of specific objective 3 (Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises) have shown a considerable increase in 2018 promising further strong progress for 2019. Nevertheless, all indicators (except 5) remain below the 50 % achievement rate of their 2023 target. Half of the indicators (2, 6, 7, 8 and 9) show rates below the 30 % mark and will have to show considerable uptakes in the coming years. Nonetheless, already today over 400 thousand firms were granted support aimed at improving their productivity and competitiveness. By the end of 2019, over 100 000 direct jobs were created as a result of business support, sustaining the employment rate in many Member States.

Indicator 1: Number of enterprises receiving support								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0					181 831			1 092 405
	Actual results							
	11 203	32 882	94 617	201 348	414 302			

Unit of measure: Enterprises

Indicator 2: Number of enterprises receiving grants								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0								361 903
	Actual results							
	1 175	3 997	14 541	40 997	89 781			

Unit of measure: Enterprises

Indicator 3: Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0								198 708
	Actual results							
	245	7 152	37 253	48 850	79 410			

Unit of measure: Enterprises

Indicator 4: Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0								454 752
	Actual results							
	9 725	20 906	38 538	93 399	214 161			

Unit of measure: Enterprises

Indicator 5: Number of new enterprises supported								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							161 739
	757	4 100	18 282	35 087	93 473			

Unit of measure: Enterprises

Indicator 6: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (grants)								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							27 745 257 392
	6 128 768	76 717 029	438 428 681	2 639 853 778	7 401 584 205			

Unit of measure: EUR

Indicator 7: Private investment matching public support to enterprises (non-grants)								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							8 454 407 716
	961 021	47 318 773	172 474 543	580 012 286	1 598 248 489			

Unit of measure: EUR

Indicator 8: Employment increase in supported enterprises								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							422 546
		4 052	11 898	4 049	108 654			

Unit of measure: Full time equivalent

Indicator 9: Increase in expected number of visits to supported sites of cultural and natural heritage and attractions								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0					15 260 700			37 302 932
	Actual results							
	3	3	184 582	5 245 223	9 277 252			

Unit of measure: Visits/year

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Project selection rate (%)	13 03 60		
Number of projects selected	13 03 61		
Spending	13 03 62		
	13 03 63		
	13 03 64 01		

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Project selection rate (%)	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*

	P			40 %	64 %	88 %		
Number of projects selected	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			28 458	61 127	95 158		
Spending	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			2 445 595 546,72	5 562 900 503.23	13 109 153 575.89		

* No values for yearly outputs are defined for the 2014-2020 programmes.

Specific Objective 4: Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors

Performance

Environmental and climate protection – Specific objective 4 to 6

Environmental and climate protection is the field that shows for its 12 indicators (objective 4 to 6) with an average achievement rate of 20 % the biggest room for improvements. The challenges programming authorities are facing in these areas do not alter the fact that ERDF plays a crucial role in contributing to Europe’s efforts in the area of environmental and climate protection. Positive is the 13 percentage point increase of the average achievement rate between 2017 and 2018, which provides evidence that the slow uptake could soon be compensate by a period of steep increase. This is reflected in the substantial increase during 2018 and especially the concrete achievements related to renewable energy production (15,3 % achievement rate), the Number of households with improved energy consumption classification (26 % achievement rate), or in the fields of flood and fire protection (average 57 % achievement rate). Underperformance related to indicator 4 (objective 4) and all indicators under specific objective 6 can be explain by the complex nature of related infrastructure projects.

Indicator 1: Additional capacity of renewable energy production (KM/MWH)								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0					19 586			5 883
	Actual results							
		1	4	228	905			

Unit of measure: MW

Indicator 2: Number of households with improved energy consumption classification								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0					121 057			628 182
	Actual results							
	1 694	7 013	27 103	65 044	163 750			

Unit of measure: Households

Indicator 3: Decrease of annual primary energy consumption of public buildings								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0								4 655 378 098
	Actual results							
		111 729	1 174 311	24 559 136	240 217 919			

Unit of measure: kWh/year

Indicator 4: Number of additional energy users connected to smart grids								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023

0								530 897
	Actual results							
		0	0	5	86			

Unit of measure: Users

Indicator 5: Estimated annual decrease of GHG								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							17 748 517
	10 197	31 836	87 612	365 881	1 138 534			

Unit of measure: Tonnes of CO2eq

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Project selection rate (%)	13 03 60		
Number of projects selected	13 03 61		
Spending	13 03 62		
	13 03 63		
	13 03 64 01		

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Project selection rate (%)	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			20 %	42 %	58 %		
Number of projects selected	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			4 912	16 163	21 543		
Spending	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			659 853 154,75	1 980 760 734.50	5 081 303 922.45		

* No values for yearly outputs are defined for the 2014-2020 programmes.

Specific Objective 5: Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management

Indicator 1: Population benefiting from flood protection measures								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							10 498 054
			11 520	1 453 555	3 784 308			

Unit of measure: Persons

Indicator 2: Population benefiting from forest fire protection measures								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							8 179 730
				1 362 645	6 432 091			

Unit of measure: Persons

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Project selection rate (%)	13 03 60		
Number of projects selected	13 03 61		
Spending	13 03 62		
	13 03 63		
	13 03 64 01		

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Project selection rate (%)	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			16 %	53 %	82 %		
Number of projects selected	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			659	1 907	1 883		
Spending	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			84 450 341,19	329 369 663.03	627 302 549.50		

* No values for yearly outputs are defined for the 2014-2020 programmes.

Specific Objective 6: Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

Indicator 1: Additional waste recycling capacity								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							1 717 112
			100	10 574	40 469			

Unit of measure: Tonnes/year

Indicator 2: Additional population served by improved water supply								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							3 935 943
		300	27 089	161 320	427 904	379 412		

Unit of measure: Persons

Indicator 3: Additional population served by improved wastewater treatment								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							8 379 994
	2 030	109 599	325 553	715 444	1 557 171	841 425		

Unit of measure: Population equivalent

Indicator 4: Total surface area of rehabilitated land								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							13 622
		11	22	155	568	207		

Unit of measure: Hectares

Indicator 5: Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							8 154 576
		13 453	100 094	1 617 264	2 790 692			

Unit of measure: Hectares

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Project selection rate (%)	13 03 60		
Number of projects selected	13 03 61		
Spending	13 03 62		
	13 03 63		
	13 03 64 01		

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Project selection rate (%)	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			16 %	49 %	73 %		
Number of projects selected	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			2 643	8 957	9 049		
Spending	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			186 178 773,25	1 129 459 924.20	2 441 061 772.68		

* No values for yearly outputs are defined for the 2014-2020 programmes.

Specific Objective 7: Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures

Performance

Investments in sustainable transport are supported with the objective of developing a seamless, door-to-door European transport system. This is crucial for achieving a higher degree of territorial cohesion and sustainable economic development. Cohesion policy is the largest EU financing source for modernising the European transport system and adapting it to new challenges. The five main indicators of this field (Specific Objective 7) show an average achievement rate of 25 %. This is a considerable improvement compared to the 2017 achievement rate, which was below 4 %. This increase of more than 20 percentage point within a year and past experience allows the conclusion that these investment targets are on a track or even likely to overachieve 2023 targets.

Indicator 1: Total length of new railway line								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
Total: 0	Actual results							558
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
TEN-T: 0	Actual results							509

Availability of Data: Milestone figures concerning indicator 1 associated with specific objective 7 are not provided for in the relevant

performance framework.
Unit of measure: km

Indicator 2: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded railway line								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
Total: 0					272			3 777
	Actual results							
					412			
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
TEN-T: 0								1 775
	Actual results							
					143			

Unit of measure: km

Indicator 3: Total length of newly built roads								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
Total: 0					142			1 426
	Actual results							
			8	168	454			
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
TEN-T: 0					14			339
	Actual results							
				54	156			

Unit of measure: km

Indicator 4: Total length of reconstructed or upgraded roads								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
Total: 0					1 094			8 990
	Actual results							
		3	212	714	2 622			
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
TEN-T: 0								116
	Actual results							
				39	50			

Unit of measure: km

Indicator 5: Total length of new or improved tram and metro lines								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0					150			252
	Actual results							
					11			

Unit of measure: km

Indicator 6: Total length of improved or created inland waterway								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0					542			650
	Actual results							
					345			

Unit of measure: km

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Project selection rate (%)	13 03 60		
Number of projects selected	13 03 61		
Spending	13 03 62		
	13 03 63		
	13 03 64 01		

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Project selection rate (%)	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			22 %	56 %	81 %		
Number of projects selected	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			531	3 403	1 791		
Spending	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			819 247 294,63	2 952 557 450,26	7 002 222 638,28		

* No values for yearly outputs are defined for the 2014-2020 programmes.

Specific Objective 8: Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility

Performance

Social cohesion and education – Specific objective 8 to 10

With almost 27.5 million more people covered by improved health services ERDF is an important contributor to the field of social cohesion (specific objectives 8-10). Together the 6 indicators show an achievement rate of 35 %, which is an increase of nearly 30 percentage points compared to last year’s reporting (2017 results). It can be concluded that the programmes are on track.

Indicator 1: Employment increase in supported enterprises								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0								422 546
	Actual results							
		4 052	11 898	4 049	108 654			

Unit of measure: Full time equivalent

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Project selection rate (%)	13 03 60		

Number of projects selected		13 03 61						
Spending		13 03 62						
		13 03 63						
		13 03 64 01						
Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Project selection rate (%)	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			26 %	53 %	71 %		
Number of projects selected	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			592	2 440	2 289		
Spending	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			55 765 439.30	177 051 214.32	392 620 094.31		

* No values for yearly outputs are defined for the 2014-2020 programmes.

Specific Objective 9: Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination

Indicator 1: Population covered by improved health services

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0					21 866 946			54 452 564
	Actual results							
		1 590 288	5 552 309	15 256 131	27 458 607			

Unit of measure: Persons

Indicator 2: Open space created or rehabilitated in urban areas

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0					3 350 732			29 702 636
	Actual results							
			42 410	1 056 066	5 254 854			

Unit of measure: Square metres

Indicator 3: Public or commercial buildings built or renovated in urban areas

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0					164 870			2 436 979
	Actual results							
			6 079	69 339	277 935			

Unit of measure: Square metres

Indicator 4: Rehabilitated housing in urban areas

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0					2 767			21 487
	Actual results							
				289	1 837			

Unit of measure: Housing Units

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Project selection rate (%)	13 03 60		
Number of projects selected	13 03 61		
Spending	13 03 62		
	13 03 63		
	13 03 64 01		

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Project selection rate (%)	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			12 %	44 %	62 %		
Number of projects selected	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			959	6 324	7 886		
Spending	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			140 104 164,71	784 796 799,90	1 571 812 875,37		

* No values for yearly outputs are defined for the 2014-2020 programmes.

Specific Objective 10: Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning

Indicator 1: Capacity of supported childcare or education infrastructure								
Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2020
0							6 900 747	6 947 824
	Actual results							
		2 663	32 642	166 450	6 799 156			

Comment: No milestone figure concerning this indicator associated with specific objective 10 is included in the table above, as the programmes which include this indicator in the performance framework where milestones are set represent a small share of the total, which render the milestone value available not representative at EU level.

Unit of measure: Persons

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Project selection rate (%)	13 03 60		
Number of projects selected	13 03 61		
Spending	13 03 62		
	13 03 63		
	13 03 64 01		

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Project selection rate (%)	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			19 %	53 %			
Number of projects selected	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			597	16 786	21 337		
Spending	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			124 786 169,45	605 636 169,18	1 471 114 905,38		

* No values for yearly outputs are defined for the 2014-2020 programmes.

Specific Objective 11: Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and an efficient public

administration

Indicator 1: Population living in areas with integrated urban development strategies

Baseline	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Target
2014	Milestones foreseen							2023
0	Actual results							44 213 409
	136 330	136 330	6 278 313	9 979 459	16 017 698			

Comment: No milestone figure concerning indicators 1 above is included in the tables above, as the programmes which include this indicator in the performance framework where milestones are set represent a small share of the total, which render the milestone value available not representative at EU level.

Unit of measure: Persons

Expenditure related outputs

Outputs	Budget line	Budget 2020	
		Number	EUR million
Project selection rate (%)	13 03 60		
Number of projects selected	13 03 61		
Spending	13 03 62		
	13 03 63		
	13 03 64 01		

Outputs		Number of outputs foreseen (F) and produced (P)						
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Project selection rate (%)	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			29 %	50 %	85 %		
Number of projects selected	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			369	1 248	1 277		
Spending	F	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
	P			11 160 449,94	61 865 748,24	268 076 600,02		

* No values for yearly outputs are defined for the 2014-2020 programmes.

4. Contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy and mainstreaming of policies

Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets

Table Contribution to Europe 2020 headline targets

75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed
3 % of the EU's GDP should be invested in R & D
The '20/20/20' climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30 % of emissions reduction if the conditions are right)

Contribution to mainstreaming of climate action

Relevant objective/output

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
I Productive investment	6,0	8,0
II Infrastructure providing basic services and related investment: Energy infrastructure	2 703,0	2 767,0
II Infrastructure providing basic services and related investment: Environmental infrastructure	100,0	103,0
II Infrastructure providing basic services and related investment: Transport infrastructure	511,0	523,0
II Infrastructure providing basic services and related investment: Sustainable transport	573,0	587,0
IV Development of endogenous potential: Research and development and innovation	127,0	130,0
IV Development of endogenous potential: Business development	610,0	624,0
IV Development of endogenous potential: Environment	1 068,0	1 093,0

IV Development of endogenous potential: Other		2,0	2,0
Total		5 700,0	5 837,0

Programming climate action

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
4 473,1	6 895,3	5 028,3	5 350,0	5 536,0	5 700,0	5 837,0	38 819,7

(*The appropriations for the year 2014 have been reviewed to take account of the transfer to subsequent years of the allocations not used in 2014 (reprogramming exercise carried-out in 2015 in accordance with Article 19 of the Multiannual Financial Framework Regulation).

Justification

The methodology used for estimating ERDF contribution to mainstreaming of climate action in 2019 and 2020 remains stable and coherent with last year's programme statement. The only changes concern a new tracking methodology, which now aligns to the system of categories of intervention reported directly by the Member States. This ensures a direct tracking of the investments as done on Member State level, rather than using synthetic categories as in previous Programme Statements. This adjustment of the methodology is more accurate and avoids i.a. problems of double counting. It partially explains slight changes in the sums compared to previous years. Nevertheless, the main changes stem from budgetary adjustments on Member State level.

As explained in previous programme statement, an accurate estimation of the contribution of ERDF to the mainstreaming of climate action can be done globally, through the Member States' funding priorities as reflected by the categories of intervention, and expressed as a percentage of the budget to be made available in 2020 (18,29 %). This tracking methodology covers climate and biodiversity objectives, in line with regulatory requirements. The same percentage is applied uniformly to all relevant ERDF budget lines (13 03 60 – Less developed regions; 13 03 61 – Transition regions; 13 03 62 – More developed regions; 13 03 63 – Additional allocation for outermost and sparsely populated regions; 13 03 64 01 – European territorial cooperation).

Contribution to financing biodiversity**Relevant objective/output**

Relevant objective/output	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
II Infrastructure providing basic services and related investment: Environmental infrastructure	181,8	184,8
IV Development of endogenous potential: Environment	749,2	761,9
Total	931,0	946,7

Programming biodiversity

2014-2018					2019-2020 estimates		Total
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
671,0	1 047,8	819,3	872,3	813,7	931,0	946,7	6 101,8

(*The appropriations for the year 2014 have been reviewed to take account of the transfer to subsequent years of the allocations not used in 2014 (reprogramming exercise carried-out in 2015 in accordance with Article 19 of the Multiannual Financial Framework Regulation).

Justification

The methodology used for estimating ERDF contribution to financing biodiversity in 2019 and 2020 remains stable and coherent with last year's programme statement. The only changes concern a new tracking methodology, which now aligns to the system of categories of intervention reported directly by the Member States. This ensures a direct tracking of the investments as done on Member State level, rather than using synthetic categories as in previous Programme Statements. This adjustment of the methodology is more accurate and avoids i.a. problems of double counting. It partially explains slight changes in the sums compared to previous years. Nevertheless, the main changes stem from budgetary adjustments on Member State level.

As explained in previous programme statement, an accurate estimation of the contribution of ERDF to financing biodiversity can be done globally, through the Member States' funding priorities as reflected by the categories of intervention, and expressed as a percentage of the budget to be made available in 2019 (2,97 %). This tracking methodology covers climate and biodiversity objectives. The same percentage is applied uniformly to all relevant ERDF budget lines (13 03 60 – Less developed regions; 13 03 61 – Transition regions; 13 03 62 – More developed regions; 13 03 63 – Additional allocation for outermost and sparsely populated regions; 13 03 64 01 – European territorial cooperation).

Contribution to financing clean air

Financing plan	Allocated to projects	Spent by projects
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Fund	2014-2020 amount	of which amount targeting clean air		Total allocated to projects	of which amount targeting clean air		Total spent by projects	of which amount targeting clean air	
		€ billion	%		€ billion	%		€ billion	%
CF	63.3	10.9	17.2%	65.2	11.3	17.4%	24.7	3.9	15.6%
ERDF	200.0	20.5	10.2%	182.2	16.3	9.0%	70.6	6.0	8.6%
Total	264.2	31.3	11.9%	247.4	27.6	11.2%	95.3	9.9	10.4%

ERDF investments contribute to improving air quality, for instance through reconstruction of building heating systems or clean urban transport infrastructure. The ERDF contribution to air quality measures is tracked through the categories of interventions and in line with the common methodology established via the NEC Directive ⁽³⁾. 9,6 % of the ERDF and 17.1% of CF planned allocation for the 2014-2020 period contribute to improved air quality. REGIO tracks the cumulative amounts allocated since the start of the programming period.

Gender mainstreaming

For the 2014-2020 programming period, the European Commission introduced a condition (ex-ante conditionality) requiring the existence of administrative capacity for the implementation and application of the EU’s gender equality law and policy when implementing the ESIF programmes. In particular, the programmes co-financed by ESIF must include information on how equality between men and women is taken into account and promoted throughout the preparation and implementation of programmes.

Following the 2014-2020 regulatory framework, the scope of the ERDF support is based on infrastructure developments and not target groups. Hence, the ERDF does not have a specific investment priority on gender equality. However, ERDF can support investments in social, health, education, housing and childcare infrastructure and business start-ups, which contribute to the progressive establishment of gender equality.

Financial allocations related to the inclusive growth objectives from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), namely thematic objectives 8-9-10, amount to EUR 21,4 billion over the 2014-2020 programming period.

Approximately EUR 1.29 billion from the European Regional and Development Fund has been programmed for early childhood education and care infrastructure in the 2014-2020 period. These investments directly contribute to the Commission’s recent Work Life Balance initiative.

DG REGIO was involved in the study ‘Gender budgeting in the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESF and ERDF): the needed change towards gender equality’. Based on the analysis of ESIF case studies related to gender budgeting, the study will propose methods and tools for more effective gender mainstreaming with the ESIF.

Example: The Commission’s annual Regiostar awards inclusive growth category in 2017 was on ‘Women empowerment and active participation’. One of the finalists was the INTERREG IPA-CBC project ‘Enhancing the respect for gender equality in Bulgaria – Turkey cross-border area’, which promoted collaborative cross-border cooperation between the two countries for a better understanding of gender equality and to encourage women either side of the border to become more involved in the labour market and starting their own business.

5. Programme contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

Cohesion Policy’s overall mission to reduce economic, social, and environmental territorial disparities between the EU regions is largely in line with the principles underpinning the SDGs, which allows for an assessment of how the Policy contributes to them.

Over the long term, Cohesion Policy contributes to SDG10 on reduced inequalities. Its contribution to SDG10 cannot however be calculated based on monitoring data and can only be estimated via evaluations. On the basis of the monitoring data it is possible however assess how Cohesion Policy, through all its funds, contributes towards SDG thematic chapters, as explained below.

ERDF contributes directly to 11 SDGs. The overall mission of the Funds is to reduce economic, social, and environmental territorial disparities, therefore targeting SDG10 on reduced inequalities on medium to long term. The distribution of investments across SDGs is illustrated in the table below. Of these, more than 70 % of investments are planned for objectives under the goals of industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG9), economic growth (SDG8) and energy efficiency and waste management (SDG12). As regards implementation by December 2019, the data for projects selection indicates significant progress, with selection rates above 70 % of the planned allocation for almost all SDGs, and above 90 % for SDG3, SDG4, SDG8 and SDG9.

⁽³⁾ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/air/air-pollution-sources-1/national-emission-ceilings/nec-directive-reporting-status-2019>

Example SDG7 and 13

A new deal for energy consumption in Paris. The ERDF is investing in the **CoRDEES (CoResponsibility in District Energy Efficiency and Sustainability)** project, for a new energy ecosystem at Clichy Batignolles, a 54-hectare eco-district in Paris. The aim is to reach the energy efficiency objective of 50 kW/h per square meter and reduce CO₂ emissions by 90 %. A three-step approach will be taken: establish an energy governance system, deploying a monitoring platform and test new services to achieve energy efficiency goals in real conditions.

Example SDG9

The **‘AS-Fabrik’ project** aims to increase the competitiveness of knowledge-intensive business service providers in the Basque city of Bilbao to better enable them in helping local manufacturing industries with the digital transition. **‘AS-Fabrik’** is centred on a factory for the creation of advanced services for industry; it provides space for experimentation with and incubation of new services. A pilot ecosystem that allows current and future knowledge-intensive business service workers to get the skills they need to play their part in this process is developed, which should keep Bilbao’s companies competitive in a time of industrial change. The project helps the city as a whole face the challenge of building a knowledge-based economy.

Example SDG 12

Urban Soil 4 Food (US4F) project starts from the challenge of using the city’s waste (biological and mineral) to produce a useful product (soil). It can be later used for meeting different city’s needs, such as food production, parks and construction. Complementary it introduces urban food chain and uses open innovation processes to establish business support for innovative circular economy start-ups in the urban area. In doing so, the project increases food self-sufficiency and minimise the environmental footprint of the city of Maribor. As the main innovative output, **US4F** creates a standardized and internationally certified urban soil. With its systemic horizontal approach, it also presents a practical example of circular economy in urban environment.

Example SDG 11 and 13:

Sustainable urban development in Estonia. The ERDF priority axis of sustainable urban development is based on the sustainable development strategies of five larger urban areas in Estonia. The five larger urban areas include Tallinn, Tartu, Narva, Pärnu and Kohtla-Järve/Jõhvi together with surrounding local municipalities. The strategies developed by the local municipalities cover all sustainability aspects of urban areas, including their economic, environmental, climatic, demographic and social challenges. The strategies were approved by the council of each local municipality of the urban areas. Based on the sustainable development strategy each urban area has agreed upon an urban area action plan for the interventions co-financed from the ERDF measures.

Example SDG 15

The **BEESPOKE Interreg project** is protecting bees in the North Sea Region. It provides new expertise, tools and financial knowledge to land managers and policy-makers, in order to increase levels of pollinators and crop pollination at local and landscape scales, while reaching higher yields and quality. It contributes to a broader policy goal of building more sustainable and resilient agroecosystems that protect the essential services offered by pollinators.

Contribution of ERDF to SDGs

SDG	SDG Title	EU amount planned (million)	% of total	Total amount planned (million)	Eligible cost of selected operations (million)	Selection rate
SDG1	No poverty	8,555	4 %	11,539	8,862	77 %
SDG3	Good health and well being	4,903	2 %	6,369	6,467	102 %
SDG4	Quality education	7,352	4 %	9,350	8,828	94 %
SDG6	Clean water and sanitation	4,088	2 %	5,454	4,630	85 %
SDG7	Affordable and clean energy	6,083	3 %	8,597	6,449	75 %
SDG8	Decent work and economic growth	47,548	24 %	69,705	69,839	100 %
SDG9	Industry, innovation, infrastructure	77,069	38 %	106,652	95,573	90 %
SDG11	Sustainable cities and communities	2,869	1 %	3,685	2,810	76 %
SDG12	Responsible consumption and production	19,577	10 %	28,948	21,163	73 %
SDG13	Climate action	4,081	2 %	5,998	5,357	89 %
SDG15	Life on land	5,395	3 %	7,510	5,166	69 %
No SDG assigned		13,363	7 %	17,780	14,821	83 %

Total		199,955	100 %	281,588	249,964	89 %
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6. Information about financial instrument(s) and trust fund(s) financed by the Programme

Financial data sent by Member States indicates that process of setting up of the financial instruments has advanced. The total eligible costs financial instruments operations selected by the end of 2019 was EUR 19.3 billion, out of which 14.6 billion ERDF, coming from all 24 Member States which planned to use financial instruments. The total amount invested in final recipients by the end of 2019 exceeded EUR 5.1 billion.

Loans account for 53 % of eligible costs for all selected instruments, followed by equity-type instruments (27 %) and guarantees (19 %). Other forms, such as interest rate subsidies account for the remaining 1 %.

Financing under the thematic objective dedicated to SMEs accounts for 46 % of all eligible costs. SMEs are also often beneficiaries in priorities covering multiple objectives (31 % of eligible costs) and in priorities under thematic objective dedicated to research, development and innovation (12 %). Financial instruments also finance low-carbon economy, ICT, ERDF investments related to social inclusion and employment, environment and climate adaptation.

7. Programme related additional information

Programmes' implementation 2014-2020 (Common Strategic Framework)*

Thematic objectives of the Common Strategic Framework	Total Planned Investment (4) 2014-2020 in EUR million (1)	Cumulative expenditure declared at end 2019 (2)	(2)/(1) %
1.Strengthening research, technological development and innovation Outputs:	55 935.6	18 615.0	33 %
2.Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies Outputs:	15 962.1	4 338.7	27 %
3.Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises Outputs:	38 652.1	19 304.6	50 %
4.Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors Outputs:	32 480.3	8 928.9	27 %
5.Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management Outputs:	3 701.0	1 040.1	28 %
6.Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency Outputs:	17 107.2	4 256.5	25 %
7.Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures Outputs:	26 895.0	10 785.4	40 %
8.Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility Outputs:	2 635.0	721.2	27 %
9.Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination Outputs:	10 045.2	2 882.4	29 %
10.Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning Outputs:	6 274.0	2 388.8	38 %
11.Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and an efficient public administration Outputs:	1 720.8	486.0	28 %
Programmes with Multiple-thematic Objectives	59 492.8	21 643.8	36 %
Other amounts not linked to the 11 thematic objectives above	7 749.8	3 217.9	42 %
TOTAL	278,651.0	98,609.4	35 %

*The data presented cover all adopted MS' Partnership Agreements, as well as all operational programmes.

(4) Planned total allocation and expenditure declared by beneficiaries at Member State level. Total Commitment is the Total Funding amount i.e. Union support and National co-financing

Information on the predecessor programme 2007 – 2013

DG Regional and Urban Policy is not requesting the inclusion of payment appropriations for these lines in the 2020 budget. The final achievements of 2007-2013 programme implementation were reported in the 2019 programme statement.