



BLOCKPOOL

FINANCING INSTRUMENTS BASED ON EU ERDF & OTHER PROGRAMS

Boot camp Course Material
provided by ERFC



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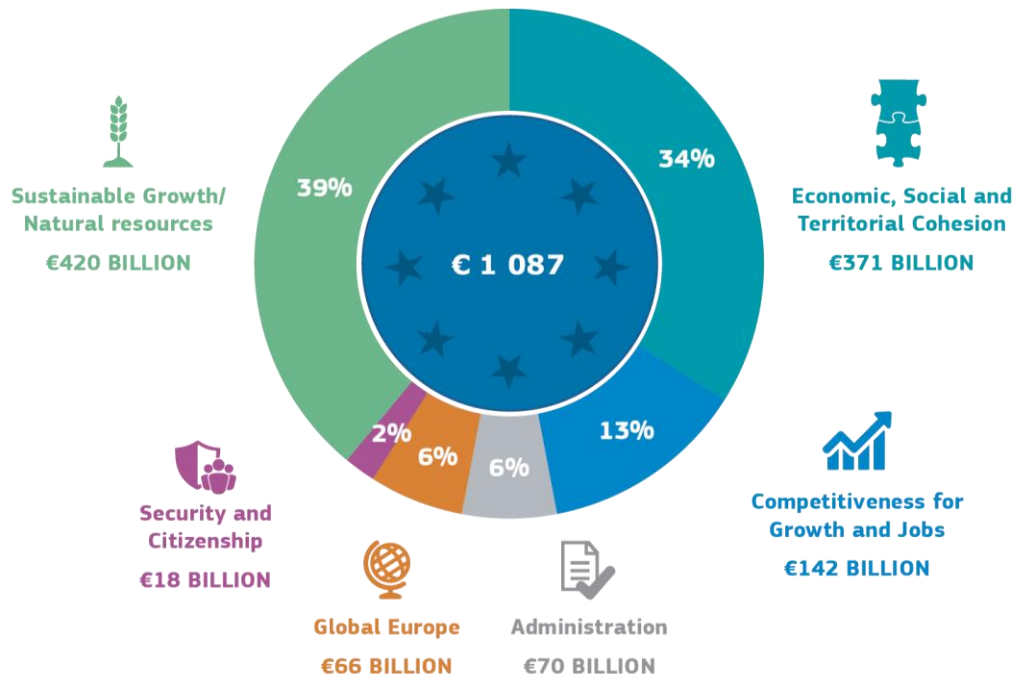
Overview of main EU Funds

In this course we will go through the different sources of funding that exist and how these sources can fuel new funding schemes between funds-of-funds, national—regional/local funds, public-private funds or new joint funds from a single or multiple EU countries, and outside EU borders.

The EU has several different funding programmes that you may be able to apply for, depending on the nature of your business or project. There are two different types: direct funding and indirect funding.

ERDF(*European Regional Fund*), ESF(*European Social Fund*) and EAFRD (*European agricultural fund for rural development*) have specific budget allocated per EU country, while the rest of the EU programs are not earmarked for each EU country, but depend on competitive bidding by the county, eligible stakeholders concerned.

EU policies are implemented through a wide range of programmes and funds which provide financial support to hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries such as farmers, students, scientists, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), businesses, towns, regions and many others.



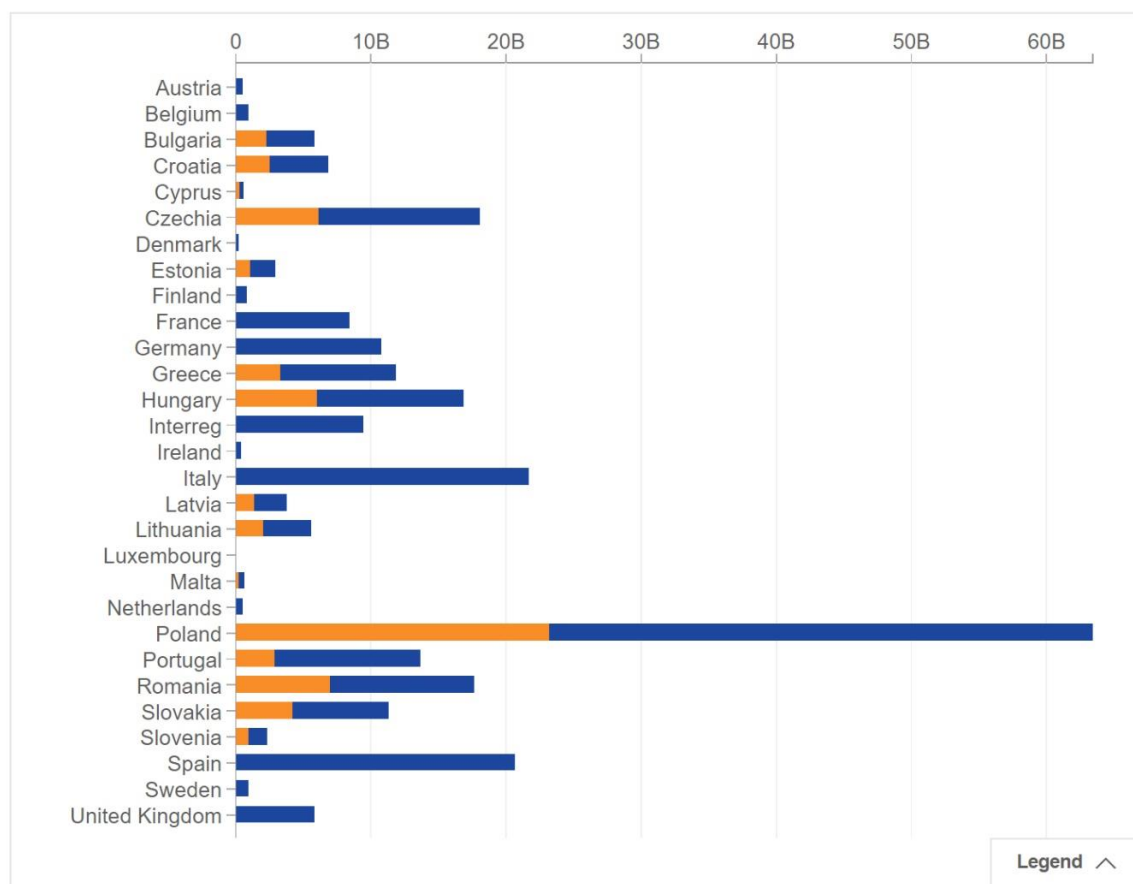
1. EU Structural Funds

Regional policy touches all parts of the EU, and at all levels - from the EU-wide and national scale, to Europe's regions and local communities. It is part of the EU cohesion policy, the European Union's strategy to promote and support the overall harmonious development of its Member States and Regions. The policy is implemented by national and regional bodies in partnership with the European Commission.

1.1 Regional Operational Programs (RoPs)

The Regional Operational Programme of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF ROP) 2014-2020, is the implementation tool defined by the Marche Region to achieve on its own territory the aims and actions of the Cohesion Policy of the European Union for the period 2014-2020.

The European Union's cohesion policy is divided into 11 Thematic Objectives (OT) aimed at reducing disparities in development of its territories and to contribute to the priorities of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth envisaged by the strategy "Europe 2020".

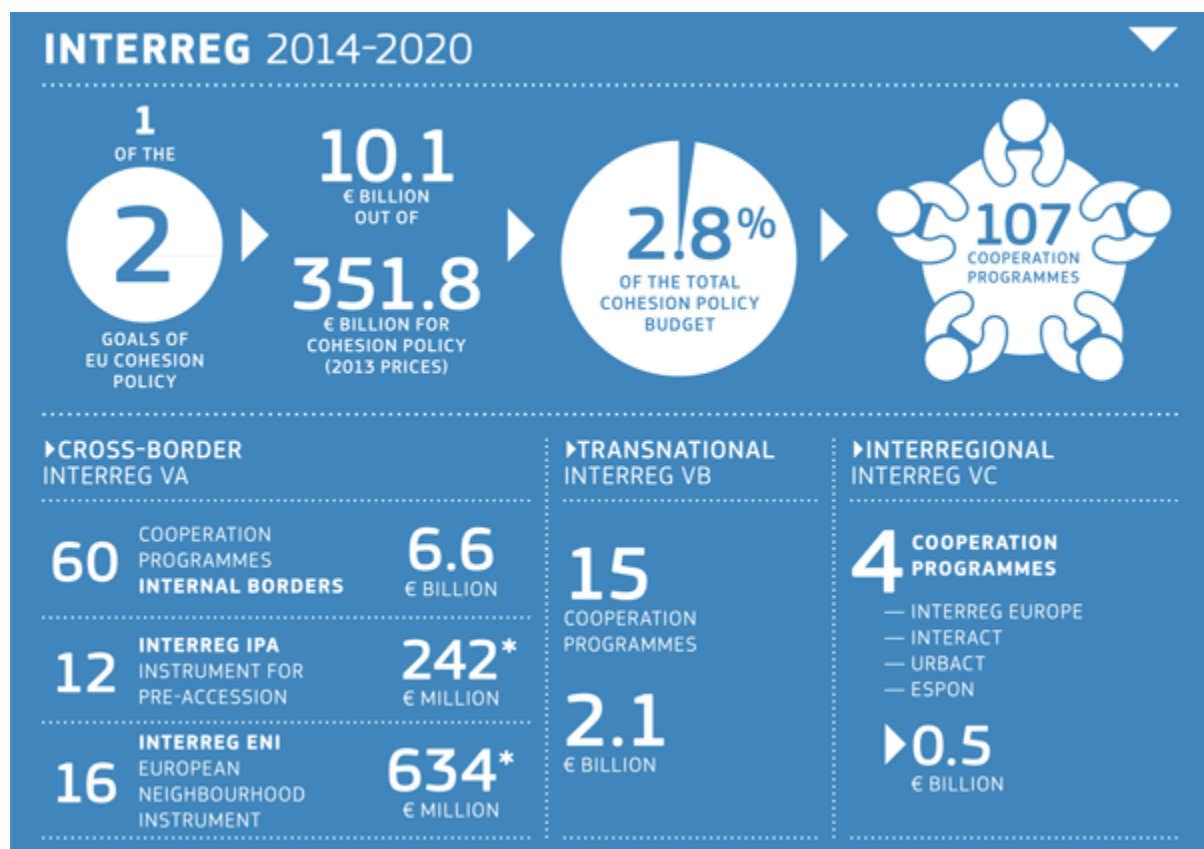


On the above chart each country in the EU is displayed along with the amount of funding it received from both CF(Cohesion Funds) and ERDF(European Development Funds). Funding originating from CF is marked in Orange, and funding from ERDF is marked in blue. Funding for regional and cohesion policy in 2014-2020 amounts to €351.8 bn.

1.2 Territorial Cooperation

European Territorial Cooperation (ETC), better known as **Interreg**, is one of the two goals of cohesion policy and provides a framework for the implementation of joint actions and policy exchanges between national, regional and local actors from different Member States.

The overarching objective of European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) is to promote a harmonious economic, social and territorial development of the Union as a whole. Interreg is built around three strands of cooperation: cross-border (Interreg A), transnational (Interreg B) and interregional (Interreg C).



1.2.1 Interreg A - CBC Cross Border Programs

European Cross-Border cooperation, known as Interreg A, supports cooperation between NUTS III regions from at least two different Member States lying directly on the borders or adjacent to them. It aims to tackle common challenges identified jointly in the border regions and to exploit the untapped growth potential in border areas, while enhancing the cooperation process for the purposes of the overall harmonious development of the Union.

European Cross-border cooperation aims to tackle common challenges identified jointly in the border regions and to exploit the untapped growth potential in border areas, while enhancing the cooperation process for the purpose of the overall harmonious development of the Union.

1.2.2 Interreg B Programs



Total Budget : €3.4 billion

Thematic Categories : Environment

Beneficiaries : economic, social and territorial cohesion

Website : https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/macro-regional-strategies/

Description

A “macro-regional strategy” is an integrated framework that addresses common challenges faced by Member States and third countries located in a same geographical area, which would benefit from strengthened cooperation contributing to achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion. They are endorsed by the European Council, which may be supported by the European Structural and Investment Funds, among others.

Several macro-regions are being identified throughout the European territory, covering large areas across national borders. The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) was adopted in October 2009; the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) started its implementation in June 2011; and the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR) was endorsed by the European Commission in 2012. The EU Strategy for the Alpine Strategy (EUSALP) has been also adopted in 2015.



There is no standard definition for a macro-region. Generally it alludes to an area including territory from a number of different countries or regions associated with one or more common features or challenges. The idea behind EU Macro-Regional Strategies is to add value to interventions, whether by the EU, national or regional authorities or the third or private sectors, in a way that significantly strengthens the functioning of the macro-region. EU Macro-Regional Strategies do not rely on any additional funding. In this respect, one of the challenges is to find ways to better use existing resources, legislation and structures for the benefit of the whole region.

Potential beneficiaries:

- National and decentralised administration;
- Regional and local government structures and policy-making bodies;
- NGOS, civil society organisations, research institutes

1.2.2.1 Interreg MED



Total Budget : €265 million

Thematic Categories : Research and innovation, Low Carbon Economy, Environment and resource efficiency

Beneficiaries : Public authorities, Managing authorities/intermediate bodies, Agencies, research institutes, thematic and non-profit organizations

Website : <https://interreg-med.eu/>

Description

The Interreg MED Programme gathers 13 European countries from the Northern shore of the Mediterranean. They are working together for a sustainable growth in the region. The Programme supports projects developing innovative concepts and practices and promoting a reasonable use of resources.

Partner States from 13 countries are working together in the transnational European Cooperation Programme for the Mediterranean area, The Interreg MED Programme 2014-2020. The transnational setup allows them to tackle challenges beyond national borders, such as the rise of low carbon economy, the protection of natural and cultural resources and the strengthening of innovation.



The main objective of the Interreg MED Programme is to promote sustainable growth in the Mediterranean area by fostering innovative concepts and practices and a reasonable use of resources and by supporting social integration through an integrated and territorially based cooperation approach.

1.2.2.2 Interreg Atlantic



Total Budget : €185 million

Thematic Categories : Innovation & Competitiveness, Resource Efficiency, Territorial Risks Management, Biodiversity, Natural & Cultural Assets

Beneficiaries : Regional and Local authorities

Website : <https://www.atlanticarea.eu/>

Description

As part of the European Union's Cohesion Policy, Interreg Atlantic Area supports transnational cooperation projects in 36 Atlantic regions of five countries: France, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom, contributing to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion. The Programme overall objective is to implement solutions to answer to regional challenges in the fields of innovation, resource efficiency, environment and cultural assets, supporting regional development and sustainable growth.

The scope of the funded projects will reflect the objective of sustainable social and economic growth in the Atlantic Area, articulated in four main priority areas:

1. Stimulating innovation and competitiveness (EUR 62.8 million)
2. Fostering resource efficiency (EUR 39.6 million)
3. Strengthening the territory's resilience to risks of natural, climate and human origin (EUR 20.3 million)
4. Enhancing biodiversity and the natural and cultural assets (EUR 52.6 million)

The Programme covers the western part of Europe bordering the Atlantic Ocean, comprising 36 regions from 5 countries. For the 2014-2020 period the Programme also includes the Canary Islands (Spain) and the Autonomous Regions of the Azores and Madeira (Portugal).



1.2.3 Interreg B Programs with Macroregional Strategy

1.2.3.1 Alpine



Total Budget : €333 million

Thematic Categories : Physical Sciences and Engineering

Beneficiaries : Local public authority, Regional public authority, National public authority, Sectorial agency, Infrastructure and (public) service provider, Higher education and research, Education/training centre and school, EGTC

Website : <http://www.alpine-region.eu/>

Description

EUSALP is a European strategy for the Alpine territory joining human passions, natural resources and economic assets, linking cities, plains, valleys and mountains to find solutions to challenges we can solve only together. We coordinate planning, integrate the best practices in the fields of economy, education, environment, accessibility and mobility, and commit as institutions to create sustainable solutions for the benefits of the citizens. By bringing governing closer to the people, EUSALP is proving that the European culture of cooperation *lives*.

EU STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION

The Alpine area is composed of territories with contrasted demographic, social and economic trends and a great cultural and linguistic diversity. This diversity goes along with a great variety of governance systems and traditions. Both the common specificities of the Alpine area and its variety and diversity call for cooperation. An Alpine macro-regional strategy would provide an opportunity to improve cooperation in the Alpine States as well as identifying common goals and implementing them more effectively through transnational collaboration. EUSALP constitutes a strategic agenda that should guide relevant policy instruments at EU, national and regional level, by closely aligning and mutually reinforcing them.



1.2.3.2 DANUBE



Total Budget : €202 million

Thematic Categories : Strengthening the Region, Connecting the Region, Building Prosperity, Protecting the Environment

Beneficiaries : Regional and Local authorities

Website : <https://danube-region.eu/>

Description

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) is a macro-regional strategy adopted by the European Commission in December 2010 and endorsed by the European Council in 2011. The Strategy was jointly developed by the Commission, together with the Danube Region countries and stakeholders, in order to address common challenges together.

The Strategy seeks to create synergies and coordination between existing policies and initiatives taking place across the Danube Region. The Danube Region Strategy addresses a wide range of issues; these are divided among 4 pillars and 12 priority areas. Each priority area is managed by two countries as Priority Area Coordinators (PACs).



1.2.3.3 ADRION



Total Budget : €118 million

Thematic Categories : Environment, Innovation, Transport, Governance, Cross-cutting themes

Beneficiaries : Regional and Local authorities

Website : <https://www.adrioninterreg.eu/>

Description

The ADRION programme is a European transnational programme that invests in regional innovation systems, cultural and natural heritage, environmental resilience, sustainable transport and mobility as well as capacity building. By bringing together eight Partner States, ADRION aims to act as a policy driver and governance innovator for the benefit of more than 70 million people in the Adriatic and Ionian region.

As a transnational cooperation programme, ADRION main contribution is to exchange and transfer experiences between regions, support transnational interventions and capacity building, as well as answering to current needs and challenges within the region. To this end, the Programme focuses its investments in four Priority Axes, namely:

1. Innovative and smart region

Promoting business investment in R&I, developing links and synergies between enterprises, research and development centres and the higher education sector, in particular promoting investment in product and service development, technology transfer, social innovation, ecoinnovation, public service applications, demand stimulation, networking, clusters and open innovation through smart specialisation.

2. Sustainable region

Conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage; Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure.

3. Connected Region

Developing and improving environment-friendly (including low-noise) and low-carbon transport systems including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility.



4. Supporting the governance of the EUSAIR

Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration by developing and coordinating macro-regional and sea-basin strategies.

1.2.3.4 Baltic



Total Budget : €1.964 million

Thematic Categories : Saving the sea, Connecting the region, Increasing prosperity

Beneficiaries : Regional and Local authorities

Website : <https://www.balticsea-region.eu/>

Description

The European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) is the first Macro-regional Strategy in Europe. The Strategy was approved by the European Council in 2009 following a communication from the European Commission. The Strategy is divided into three objectives, which represent the three key challenges of the Strategy: saving the sea, connecting the region and increasing prosperity. Each objective relates to a wide range of policies and has an impact on the other objectives.

The Strategy is an agreement between the Member States of the EU and the European Commission to strengthen cooperation between the countries bordering the Baltic Sea in order to meet the common challenges and to benefit from common opportunities facing the region.

The EU member states involved in the EUSBSR are Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. The EUSBSR implementation is coordinated in close contact with the European Commission and all relevant stakeholders, i.e. other member states, regional and local authorities, inter-governmental and non-governmental bodies. The Strategy is also welcoming cooperation with EU neighbouring countries (Russia, Iceland, Norway and Belarus).



1.2.4 Interreg C Europe



Total Budget : €359 million

Thematic Categories : Research and innovation, SME competitiveness, Low-carbon economy
Environment and resource efficiency

Beneficiaries : Public authorities, Managing authorities/intermediate bodies, Agencies,
research institutes, thematic and non-profit organisations

Website : <https://www.interregeurope.eu/>

Video Description : <https://youtu.be/buxm8Z7VGbM>

Description

Interreg Europe helps regional and local governments across Europe to develop and deliver better policy. By creating an environment and opportunities for sharing solutions, we aim to ensure that government investment, innovation and implementation efforts all lead to integrated and sustainable impact for people and place.

We know that better performance leads to better results. By building on its forerunner, INTERREG IVC (2007-2013), Interreg Europe aims to get maximum return from the EUR 359 million financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for 2014-2020. This time round, it's still about doing good, but doing it better!

Solutions exist that can help our regions become the best that they can be. Today, the EU's emphasis is very much on paving the way for regions to realise their full potential – by helping them to capitalise on their innate strengths while tapping into opportunities that offer possibilities for economic, social and environmental progress.

To achieve this goal, Interreg Europe offers opportunities for regional and local public authorities across Europe to share ideas and experience on public policy in practice, therefore improving strategies for their citizens and communities.



1.2.5 European Neighbourhood Instrument Cross-Border Cooperation (ENI CBC)



Programme funded by the European Union
[European Neighbourhood Instrument \(ENI\)](#)

Total Budget : €1bn

Thematic Categories : Territorial Cooperation both sides of the EU Borders

Website : <https://tesim-enicbc.eu/>

Educational Material Animated Webinars :

Stakeholders Analysis : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SxizUIAkRs>

All Material : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQ45ZUYKKSRJt1Cdol2Y08w/featured>

Description

Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) is a key element of the EU policy towards its neighbours. It supports sustainable development along the EU's external borders, helps reducing differences in living standards and addressing common challenges across these borders. It was first recognised as such in the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) regulation for the period 2007-2013. This was confirmed for the period 2014-2020 in the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) regulation.

CBC promotes cooperation between EU countries and neighbourhood countries sharing a land border or sea crossing. Funding can also be provided for a programme between several EU and neighbourhood countries which, for example, are part of the same sea basin.

CBC is designed on the principles of the EU's territorial cooperation model, but adapted to the specificities of the EU external cooperation. What characterises the CBC programmes and makes them a unique cooperation mechanism is the participating countries' strong commitment and ownership based on:

- balanced partnership between the participating countries on either side of a border: Member States and neighbouring countries have an equal say in the programme decisions and projects receive funding only if implemented by partners on both sides;
- management entrusted to a local – or national – authority in a member state, jointly selected by all countries participating in the programme;
- common legal framework and implementation rules: For the future ENI period, rules established for the ENPI CBC have been simplified and adapted based on previous experience.

CBC has three main objectives:



- promoting economic and social development in border areas
- addressing common challenges (environment, public health, safety and security)
- putting in place better conditions for persons, goods and capital mobility

The ENI CBC budget for the period 2014-2020 remains roughly at the same level as the ENPI CBC budget 2007-2013 with a total of EUR 1.052 billion. The CBC budget comes from two different sources: ENI and contributions from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Out of the 16 CBC ENI programmes identified in the ENI CBC Programming Document 2014-2020, 13 programmes were adopted in December 2015, and 2 more were adopted in December 2016 (Mid-Atlantic is still missing). It is to be noted that the Baltic Sea programme remains an INTERREG programme managed by DG Regional and Urban Policy and was adopted already in 2014.

Land-Border programmes

Kolarctic Programme	Poland-Belarus-Ukraine Programme
Karelia Programme	Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine Programme
South East Finland-Russia Programme	Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova Programme
Estonia-Latvia-Russia Programme	Romania-Ukraine Programme
Estonia-Russia Programme	Romania-Republic of Moldova Programme
Latvia-Russia Programme	Italy-Tunisia Programme
Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus Programme	ENI Black Sea Programme
Lithuania-Poland-Russia Programme	ENI Mediterranean Sea Programme
Lithuania-Russia	Mid-Atlantic Programme
Poland-Russia	Baltic Sea Region Programme (managed by DG Regio)



1.2.5.1 ENI MED



Total Budget : € 209 million

Thematic Categories : Business and SME's development, Startups, Euro-Mediterranean economic clusters, Sustainable Tourism

Website : <http://www.enicbcmed.eu/>

Description

The general objective of the Programme is to foster fair, equitable and sustainable economic, social and territorial development, which may advance cross-border integration and valorise participating countries' territories and values. The strategy is based on the following two overall objectives:

- Promote economic and social development
- Address common challenges in the environment

The Programme brings together the coastal territories of 14 EU and partner countries in view of fostering fair, equitable and sustainable development on both sides of the EU's external borders. Through calls for proposals, ENI CBC Med finances cooperation projects for a more competitive, innovative, inclusive and sustainable Mediterranean area.



1.2.5.2 ENI Black Sea



Total Budget : €49 million

Thematic Categories : Environment Protection, Reduction of Marine Litter

Beneficiaries : Authorities at regional and sub-national administrative levels, civil society organisations based within the eligible programme area, chambers of commerce, academic and educational community

Website : <https://blacksea-cbc.net/>

Description

The Black Sea Basin Programme 2014-2020 is part of European Union's Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) under its European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI).

ENI CBC receives funding from ENI as well as from the European Regional Development Fund and the Instrument for Pre-Accession which is pooled together. All sources of funding may be used on either side of the EU external border for actions of common benefit.

The Black Sea Basin ENI CBC programme 2014-2020 builds upon the previous cooperation framework, the Black Sea Basin ENPI CBC programme 2007-2013, under which 62 projects were awarded and implemented in 8 countries surrounding the Black Sea Basin.

As a result of the completed analytical and consultation process, the Black Sea Basin programme focuses on a set of objectives and priorities, reflecting the countries' specific circumstances and requirements, as presented in the table below.



1.3 Rural Development



Total Budget : €100 billion

Thematic Categories : Environment

Beneficiaries : Farmers, advisers, researchers, businesses, NGOs and others

Website : <https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/rural-development/country>

Description

EU rural development policy is implemented on the basis of national or regional multiannual rural development programmes (RDPs) designed and managed by EU Member States or regions and approved by the European Commission. Each programme constitutes a specific strategy that has to meet the needs of the country/ region concerned while respecting EU priorities for rural development.

Member States will have to build their rural development programmes (RDPs) based upon at least four of the **six common EU priorities**:

1. Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas;
2. enhancing the viability/competitiveness of all types of agriculture, and promoting innovative farm technologies and sustainable forest management;
3. promoting food chain organisation, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture;
4. restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry;
5. promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift toward a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors;
6. promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.



1.3.1 EIP-AGRI



Total Budget : €3.7 billion

Thematic Categories : Agri

Beneficiaries : Farmers, advisers, researchers, businesses, NGOs and others

Website : <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en>

Description

In a changing world, the EU's economy needs innovation to become smarter, more sustainable and more inclusive. Along with its growth strategy EU 2020, the EU has launched the Innovation union, an initiative aimed to help all EU countries to provide their citizens with a more competitive economy, more and better jobs and a better quality of life.

EIPs - a new approach to innovation

Five European Innovation Partnerships have been launched in the context of the Innovation Union. European Innovation Partnerships are a new approach to research and innovation. EIPs help to pool expertise and resources by bringing together public and private sectors at EU, national and regional levels, combining supply and demand side measures. All EIPs focus on societal benefits and fast modernisation. They support the cooperation between research and innovation partners so that they are able to achieve better and faster results compared to existing approaches.



1.3.2 LEADER



Total Budget : €2 billion

Thematic Categories : Agriculture

Beneficiaries : Farmers, advisers, researchers, businesses, NGOs and others

Website : http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/enrd-static/leader/en/leader_en.html

Description

The acronym 'LEADER' derives from the French words "Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale" which means, 'Links between the rural economy and development actions'. The idea was to enlist the energy and resources of people and bodies that could contribute to the rural development process by forming partnerships at a sub-regional level between the public, private and civil sectors. In 1990, when a group of officials at the European Commission came up with the proposal for LEADER, this concept of connecting with people was quite new.

The LEADER approach is associated with local empowerment through local strategy development and resource allocation. The main tool for the application of the LEADER approach to area development and involving local representatives in decision-making is the Local Action Group (LAG).

In the experimental phase in 1991-93, LEADER involved 217 regions, focusing on disadvantaged rural areas. This was also true for 1994-1999. In 2000-2006, based on the encouraging results, the method quickly expanded to cover all types of rural areas. In its fourth programming period (2007-2013), the approach was mainstreamed as an integral part of the EU's rural development policy, covering 2402 rural territories across the Member States. The method has also extended thematically to fisheries policy with some 300 FLAGS on that side.

Due to rapid expansion, the network structures have become ever more important to LEADER implementation. National Rural Networks (NRNs) are state-supported bodies established in all the Member States. They assist in capacity building, networking activities, partner search for transnational cooperation, etc. The European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) plays the same role at the European level, directly helping both the NRNs and LAGs. About half of the EU's LAGs are members of the European LEADER Association for Rural Development (ELARD), which is an NGO-based cooperation forum of LEADER areas. A strong commitment and faith in the methodology create a shared ethos among the LEADER practitioners and networks, and has been recognised by external evaluator.



1.4 European Social Fund (ESF)



European Union

European
Social Fund

Total Budget : €84 billion

Thematic Categories : Employment, Social Affairs, Public Management, Education - Training, Services, Youth

Beneficiaries : Local and Regional authorities, Training centres, Administrations States, Development NGOs, SMEs, Universities, Non-profit organisations,

Website : <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/home.jsp?langId=en>

Description

The ESF is Europe's main instrument for supporting jobs, helping people get better jobs and ensuring fairer job opportunities for all EU citizens. It works by investing in Europe's human capital – its workers, its young people and all those seeking a job. ESF financing of EUR 10 billion a year is improving job prospects for millions of Europeans, in particular those who find it difficult to get work.

The European Union is committed to creating more and better jobs and a socially inclusive society. These goals are at the core of the Europe 2020 strategy for generating smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the EU. The current economic crisis is making this an even more demanding challenge. The ESF is playing an important role in meeting Europe's goals, and in mitigating the consequences of the economic crisis – especially the rise in unemployment and poverty levels.

Setting priorities

The European Commission and EU countries in partnership set the ESF's priorities and how it spends its resources. One priority is to boost the adaptability of workers with new skills, and enterprises with new ways of working. Other priorities focus on improving access to employment: by helping young people make the transition from school to work, or training less-skilled job-seekers to improve their job prospects. Indeed, vocational training and lifelong learning opportunities to give people new skills form a large part of many ESF projects.

Another priority focuses on helping people from disadvantaged groups to get jobs. This is part of enhancing 'social inclusion' – a sign of the important role that employment plays in helping people integrate better into society and everyday life. The financial crisis has led to a redoubling of efforts to keep people in work, or help them return to work quickly if they lose their jobs.

Projects for people

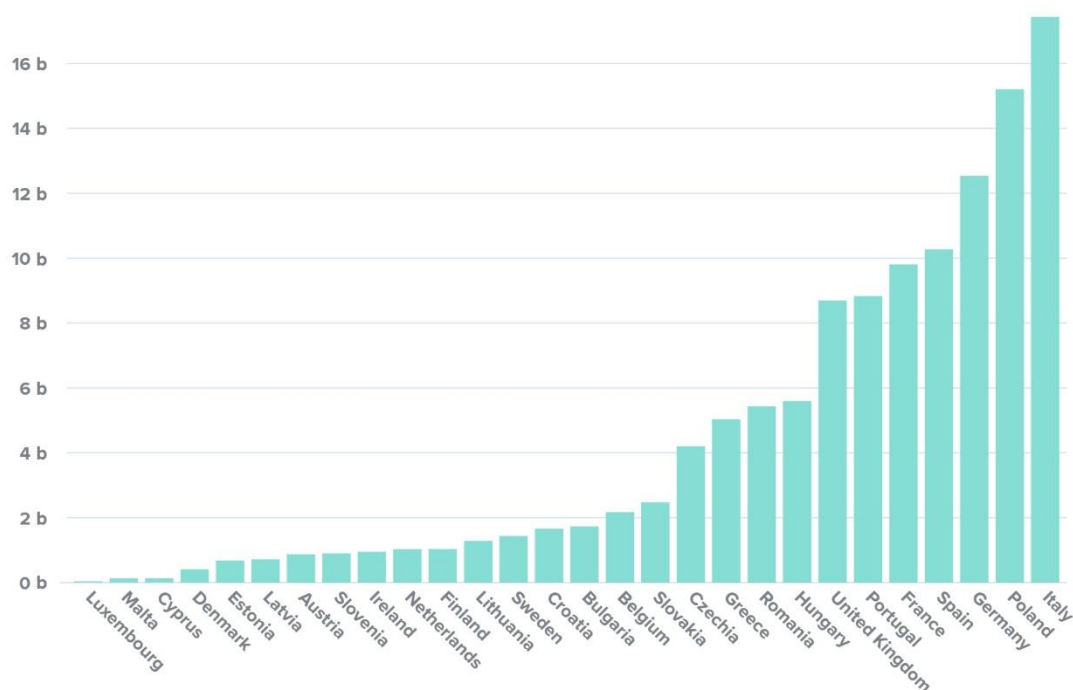


This project has received funding from the European Union's H2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement no 828888

The ESF is not an employment agency – it does not advertise jobs. Rather, it is funding tens of thousands of local, regional and national employment-related [projects](#) throughout Europe: from small projects run by neighbourhood charities to help local disabled people find suitable work, to nationwide projects that promote vocational training among the whole population.

There is a great variety in the nature, size and aims of ESF projects, and they address a wide variety of target groups. There are projects aimed at education systems, teachers and schoolchildren; at young and older job-seekers; and at potential entrepreneurs from all backgrounds. People are the focus of the ESF.

ESF Budget by Country: 2014-2020



In 2014-2020, the actual ESF allocations amount to 24.8% of the Structural Funds (ESF & ERDF) budget. The introduction of a minimum share (23.1%) is effectively putting an end to the gradual decrease of the ESF share in the past 25 years. 18 Member States have decided to allocate additional funds to the ESF beyond the minimum share.



1.4.1 Employment and Social Innovation Programme (EaSI)



Total Budget : €919.47 million

Thematic Categories : Social Affairs and Human Rights, Labour Market, Entrepreneurship

Beneficiaries : Private Sector, Academic institutions and research centers, Non-Profit Organizations

Website : <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1081&langId=en>

Description

The Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme is a financing instrument at EU level to promote a high level of quality and sustainable employment, guaranteeing adequate and decent social protection, combating social exclusion and poverty and improving working conditions. EaSI is managed directly by the European Commission.

It brings together three EU programmes managed separately between 2007 and 2013:

- PROGRESS,
- EURES
- Progress Microfinance.

As of January 2014, these programmes form the three axes of EaSI. They support:

- the modernisation of employment and social policies with the PROGRESS axis.
- job mobility with the EURES axis.
- access to micro-finance and social entrepreneurship with the Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship axis.

The objectives of EaSI are:

- Strengthening ownership of EU objectives and coordination of action at EU and national level in the areas of employment, social affairs and inclusion.
- Supporting the development of adequate social protection systems and labour market policies.
- Modernizing EU legislation and ensure its effective application.
- Promoting geographical mobility and boost employment opportunities by developing an open labour market.
- Increasing the availability and accessibility of microfinance for vulnerable groups and micro-enterprises, and increase access to finance for social enterprises.



1.4.2 EURES



Total Budget : €25 million

Thematic Categories : Information, Guidance and Recruitment/Placement

Beneficiaries : National, Regional and Local authorities, Employment services
social partner organisations and other interested parties

Website : <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1083&langId=en>

Description

The aim of the EURES axis is to strengthen EURES, a European job mobility network that provides information, guidance and recruitment or placement services to employers, jobseekers and any citizen wishing to take advantage of freedom of movement for workers.

- It covers three thematic sections:
- transparency of job vacancies, job applications and any related information for applicants and employers;
- development of services for the recruitment and placing of workers in
- employment;
cross-border partnerships.

Potential beneficiaries:

- national, regional and local authorities;
- employment services;
- social partner organisations and other interested parties

The EURES network is a useful tool for private individuals (students, unemployed persons) looking for work and for bodies interested in learning more about the opportunities provided by the free movement of workers in the EEA.



1.4.3 Progress



Total Budget : €16 million

Thematic Categories : Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion

Beneficiaries : National, regional and local authorities, Employment services, National statistical offices, NGOs and social partners, Higher education institutions and research institutes, Experts in evaluation and in impact assessment

Website : <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1084&langId=en>

Description

The PROGRESS axis of EaSI helps the EU and its countries to improve policies in three thematic sections:

- employment, in particular to fight youth unemployment;
- social protection, social inclusion and the reduction and prevention of poverty;
- working conditions.

Objectives

- Develop and disseminate high-quality comparative analytical knowledge.
- Facilitate effective and inclusive information-sharing, mutual learning and dialogue.
- Provide financial support to test social and labour market policy innovations.
- Provide organisations with financial support to increase their capacity to develop, promote and support the implementation of EU instruments and policies.

Who can participate?

- EU countries;
- EEA countries, in accordance with the EEA Agreement, and EFTA countries;
- EU candidate countries and potential candidate countries, in line with the framework agreements concluded with them.

The PROGRESS axis of EaSI is open to all public and/or private bodies, actors and institutions, and in particular:

- national, regional and local authorities;
- employment services;
- specialist bodies provided for under Union law;
- the social partners;
- non-governmental organisations;



- higher education institutions and research institutes;
- experts in evaluation and in impact assessment;
- national statistical offices;
- the media.

It can support cooperation with international organisations, and in particular with the Council of Europe, the OECD, the ILO, with other United Nations bodies and with the World Bank.



1.5 Horizon 2020



Total Budget : €77.03 billion

Thematic Categories : Energy, Environment, Health, Industry, Information and Communication Technologies, Justice, Security, Social Affairs and Human Rights, Space, Telecommunications, Transport, Youth, Economic growth and competitiveness

Beneficiaries : Private Sector, Public Sector Bodies, Non-Profit Organizations, Academic institutions and research centers

Website : <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>

Description

Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly €80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020) – in addition to the private investment that this money will attract. It promises more breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market.

Horizon 2020 is the financial instrument implementing the Innovation Union, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness.

Seen as a means to drive economic growth and create jobs, Horizon 2020 has the political backing of Europe's leaders and the Members of the European Parliament. They agreed that research is an investment in our future and so put it at the heart of the EU's blueprint for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and jobs.

By coupling research and innovation, Horizon 2020 is helping to achieve this with its emphasis on excellent science, industrial leadership and tackling societal challenges. The goal is to ensure Europe produces world-class science, removes barriers to innovation and makes it easier for the public and private sectors to work together in delivering innovation.

Horizon 2020 is open to everyone, with a simple structure that reduces red tape and time so participants can focus on what is really important. This approach makes sure new projects get off the ground quickly – and achieve results faster.



1.6 Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)



Total Budget : €31 billion

Thematic Categories : Transport

Beneficiaries : international organisations, joint undertakings, or public or private undertakings or bodies established in Member States

Website : http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/enrd-static/leader/en/leader_en.html

Description

Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)

The Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) policy addresses the implementation and development of a Europe-wide network of railway lines, roads, inland waterways, maritime shipping routes, ports, airports and railroad terminals. The ultimate objective is to close gaps, remove bottlenecks and technical barriers, as well as to strengthen social, economic and territorial cohesion in the EU. The current TEN-T policy is based on Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013.

Besides the construction of new physical infrastructure, the TEN-T policy supports the application of innovation, new technologies and digital solutions to all modes of transport. The objective is improved use of infrastructure, reduced environmental impact of transport, enhanced energy efficiency and increased safety.

TEN-T comprises two network 'layers':

- The Core Network includes the most important connections, linking the most important nodes, and is to be completed by 2030.
- The Comprehensive Network covers all European regions and is to be completed by 2050.

The backbone of the Core Network is represented by nine Core Network Corridors, which were identified to streamline and facilitate the coordinated development of the Core Network. Two horizontal priorities, the European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS) and Motorways of the Sea complement these. Oversight of the Corridors and of the two Horizontal Priorities lies with European Coordinators, nominated by the European Commission.



1.7 European Development Fund (EDF)



Total Budget : €30.5 billion

Thematic Categories : Local development, Humanitarian, Citizenship, Human Rights, Co-op & Development

Beneficiaries : Local and Regional authorities, Corporations, Federations Unions, Administrations States, Agencies Chambers, Development NGOs, Non-profit organisations,

Website : https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/eu-budget/documents/european-development-fund_en

Description

Created in 1958, the EDF is the EU's oldest and largest development instrument, and it respects the principles enshrined in the Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CPA) between the EU and the Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The Cotonou principles include the following: equality and ownership; participation (governments are the main partners but other actors – civil society, economic and social partners, the private sector – are also involved); differentiation and regionalisation (cooperation varies according to needs, level of development and performance).

The primary objective of the EDF is the reduction and, in the long term, the eradication of poverty in ACP countries and regions. The EDF also aims to help foster sustainable economic, social and environmental development, and to consolidate and support democracy, the rule of law, good governance, human rights and the relevant principles of international law.



1.8 European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)



Total Budget : €15.4 billion

Thematic Categories : Humanitarian, Education - Training, Environment, Industry, Innovation, Human Rights, Co-op & Development

Beneficiaries : Local and Regional authorities, Administrations States, Development NGOs, SMEs, Universities, Non-profit organisations, International Organisation

Website : <https://www.euneighbours.eu/en>

Description

European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) is aimed at supporting political, economic and social reform processes in the following neighbouring countries of the European Union: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia, and Ukraine. ENP aims to strengthen prosperity, stability, security, the market economy and sustainable growth through a continuous dialogue with each partner country.

Partner countries agree with the EU an ENP action plan demonstrating their commitment to democracy, human rights, rule of law, good governance, market economy principles and sustainable development. The action plans setting up the short-term and medium-term priorities for each partner country are among the key instruments of this policy. Although the action plans are tailored to each of the neighbouring countries, they generally refer to a number of common activities, ranging from political dialogue to trade-related issues and economic and social cooperation.

For the period 2014-2020, the European Neighbourhood Policy is financed by the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) which replaces the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) existing since 2007. In line with the renewed Neighbourhood Policy launched in 2011, ENI support focuses mainly on:

- promoting human rights and the rule of law; establishing deep and sustainable democracy and developing a thriving civil society;
- sustainable and inclusive growth and economic, social and territorial development; including progressive integration in the EU internal market;
- mobility and people-to-people contacts; including student exchanges, civil society;
- regional integration; including Cross-Border Cooperation.



1.9 Erasmus+



Total Budget : €14.8 billion

Thematic Categories : Education and Training, Youth, Sport

Beneficiaries : Private Sector, Public Sector, Non-Profit Organizations, Academic institutions and research centers

Website : <http://ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/>

Description

Erasmus+ is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe. Its budget of €14.7 billion will provide opportunities for over 4 million Europeans to study, train, and gain experience abroad. Set to last until 2020, Erasmus+ doesn't just have opportunities for students. Merging seven prior programmes, it has opportunities for a wide variety of individuals and organisations.

The aim of Erasmus+ is to contribute to the Europe 2020 strategy for growth, jobs, social equity and inclusion, as well as the aims of ET2020, the EU's strategic framework for education and training. Erasmus+ also aims to promote the sustainable development of its partners in the field of higher education and contribute to achieving the objectives of the EU Youth Strategy.

Specific issues tackled by the programme include:

- Reducing unemployment, especially among young people
- Promoting adult learning, especially for new skills and skills required by the labour market.
- Encouraging young people to take part in European democracy
- Supporting innovation, cooperation and reform
- Reducing early school leaving
- Promoting cooperation and mobility with the EU's partner countries



1.10 Galileo and Egnos (European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service)



European
Global Navigation
Satellite Systems
Agency

Total Budget : €7.07 billion

Thematic Categories : Space, Information and Communication Technologies

Beneficiaries : Central Government, Private Sector, Public Sector, Academic institutions and research centers

Website : <https://www.gsa.europa.eu/european-gnss/what-gnss>

Description

Galileo is Europe's Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), providing improved positioning and timing information with significant positive implications for many European services and users. For example:

- Galileo allows users to know their exact position with greater precision than what is offered by other available systems.
- The products that people use every day, from the navigation device in your car to a mobile phone, benefit from the increased accuracy that Galileo provides.
- Critical, emergency response-services benefit from Galileo.
- Galileo's services will make Europe's roads and railways safer and more efficient.
- It boosts European innovation, contributing to the creation of many new products and services, creating jobs and allowing Europe to own a greater share of the EUR 175 billion global GNSS market (Source: GSA Market Report Issue V).

Furthermore, Galileo provides Europe and European citizens with independence and sovereignty, an array of environmental benefits and several new services specific to the Galileo programme (Open Service, Commercial Service, Search and Rescue).

The European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS) is Europe's regional satellite-based augmentation system (SBAS) that is used to improve the performance of global navigation satellite systems (GNSSs), such as GPS and Galileo. It has been deployed to provide safety of life navigation services to aviation, maritime and land-based users over most of Europe.

EGNOS uses GNSS measurements taken by accurately located reference stations deployed across Europe. All measured GNSS errors are transferred to a central computing centre, where differential corrections and integrity messages are calculated. These calculations are then broadcast over the covered area using geostationary satellites that serve as an augmentation, or overlay, to the original GNSS message.



As a result, EGNOS improves the accuracy and reliability of GNSS positioning information, while also providing a crucial integrity message regarding the continuity and availability of a signal. In addition, EGNOS also transmits an extremely accurate universal time signal.

1.11 Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Energy



Total Budget: €5,85 billion

Thematic Categories: Energy

Beneficiaries: Public and private entities acting on behalf of those authorities (utilities, public transportation providers, social housing associations, energy service companies, etc), municipal, local and regional authorities, citizens

Website: https://ec.europa.eu/energy/funding-and-contracts/eu-funding-possibilities-in-the-energy-sector_en#european-energy-programme-for-recovery

Description

Upgrading the EU's ageing energy infrastructure, in order to prepare it for future challenges (demand for energy, security of supply, large-scale supply of energy from renewable sources), requires huge investments. As some energy projects are not commercially viable, CEF grants are of particular importance. Grants are allocated following competitive calls for proposals.



1.12 European Energy Programme for Recovery



Total Budget: € 3.98 billion

Thematic Categories: Energy

Beneficiaries: Public and private entities acting on behalf of those authorities (utilities, public transportation providers, social housing associations, energy service companies, etc), municipal, local and regional authorities, citizens

Website: https://ec.europa.eu/energy/funding-and-contracts/eu-funding-possibilities-in-the-energy-sector_en#european-energy-programme-for-recovery

Description

The European Commission's European Energy Programme for Recovery (EEPR) finances key energy projects. Under the EEPR, the European Commission has also launched the European Energy Efficiency Fund (EEEF). The EEEF offers financial products such as senior and junior loans, guarantees, or equity participation to energy efficiency investments made by local, regional, and national authorities.



1.13 Internal Security Fund



Total Budget: € 3.8 billion

Thematic Categories: Health

Beneficiaries: National, regional and local authorities, NGOs, foundations, universities, research centres

Website: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/financing/fundings/security-and-safeguarding-liberties_en

Description

To promote the implementation of the Internal Security Strategy, law enforcement cooperation and the management of the Union's external borders, the Internal Security Fund (ISF) has been set up for the period 2014-20 and its total budget amounts to approximately EUR 3.8 billion. The Fund will ensure that EU States are provided with adequate Union financial support to ensure progress towards the policy objectives and to address important challenges in the area of internal security. The ISF is composed of two instruments:

- Borders and Visa (ISF Borders and Visa)
- Police cooperation, preventing and combatting crime, and crisis management (ISF Police)

Activities which will be implemented through the ISF Borders and Visa instrument were formerly supported by the External Borders Fund (EBF) and the ISF Police instrument will cover activities which were supported by the specific programmes Prevention of and Fight against Crime (ISEC) and Prevention, Preparedness and Consequence Management of Terrorism and other Security-related Risks (CIPS) in the 2007-13 period



1.14 LIFE Programme



Total Budget : €3.4 billion

Thematic Categories : Environment

Beneficiaries : Private Sector, Public Sector, Non-Profit Organizations, Academic institutions and research centers

Website : <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/life>

Description

The LIFE Programme is the European Union's funding instrument for the environment and climate action created in 1992. The general objective of LIFE is to contribute to the implementation, updating and development of EU environmental and climate policy and legislation by co-financing projects with European added value.

The current LIFE programme (2014-2020) has a budget of €3.4 billion. It is divided into two sub-programmes, one for environment (representing 75% of the overall financial envelope) and one for climate action (representing 25% of the envelope). There is also a new category 'jointly funded integrated projects', which will operate on a large territorial scale.



1.15 Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)



Total Budget : € 3.137 billion

Thematic Categories : Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion

Beneficiaries : State and federal authorities, Local public bodies, NGOs and humanitarian organisations, Private and public law companies, Education and research organisations.

Website : https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/financing/fundings/migration-asylum-borders/asylum-migration-integration-fund_en

Description

The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) was set up for the period 2014-20, with a total of EUR 3.137 billion for the seven years. It will promote the efficient management of migration flows and the implementation, strengthening and development of a common Union approach to asylum and immigration. This Fund will contribute to the achievement of four specific objectives:

- Asylum: strengthening and developing the Common European Asylum System by ensuring that EU legislation in this field is efficiently and uniformly applied;
- Legal migration and integration: supporting legal migration to EU States in line with the labour market needs and promoting the effective integration of non-EU nationals;
- Return: enhancing fair and effective return strategies, which contribute to combating irregular migration, with an emphasis on sustainability and effectiveness of the return process;
- Solidarity: making sure that EU States which are most affected by migration and asylum flows can count on solidarity from other EU States.

This Fund will also provide financial resources for the activities and future development of the European Migration Network (EMN). EMN aims to respond to EU institutions' and to EU State authorities' and institutions' needs for information on migration and asylum by providing up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable data, with a view to supporting policy-making.

- higher education institutions and research institutes;
- experts in evaluation and in impact assessment;
- national statistical offices;
- the media.

It can support cooperation with international organisations, and in particular with the Council of Europe, the OECD, the ILO, with other United Nations bodies and with the World Bank.



1.16 Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME)



Total Budget : €2.3 billion

Thematic Categories : Trade and Commerce, Economic growth and Competitiveness, Information and Communication Technologies

Beneficiaries : Private Sector, Public Sector

Website : https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/cosme_en

Description

COSME is the EU programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises running from 2014 - 2020 with a planned budget of EUR 2.3 billion. The European Commission aims to promote entrepreneurship and improve the business environment for SMEs to allow them to realize their full potential in today's global economy. One of COSME's main objectives is to provide enhanced access to finance for SMEs in different phases of their lifecycle. The programme especially focuses on digital entrepreneurship to help European businesses drive their digital transformation and fully benefit from the unprecedented new opportunities created in the digital era.



1.17 Creative Europe



Creative
Europe

Total Budget : €1.46 billion

Thematic Categories : Culture, Media and Audiovisual Sector

Beneficiaries : Private Sector, Public Sector, Non-Profit Organizations, Academic institutions and research centers

Website : http://ec.europa.eu/culture/creative-europe/calls/index_en.htm

Description

Creative Europe is the European Commission's framework programme for support to the culture and audiovisual sectors. Creative Europe's stated aims are to:

- Help the cultural and creative sectors seize the opportunities of the digital age and globalization.
- Enable the sectors to reach their economic potential, contributing to sustainable growth, jobs, and social cohesion.
- Give Europe's culture and media sectors access to new international opportunities, markets, and audiences.

The Creative Europe programme is open to cultural and creative organisations from EU Member States, as well as non-EU countries.

Creative Europe supports:

- Culture sector initiatives, such as those promoting cross-border cooperation, platforms, networking, and literary translation.
- Audiovisual sector initiatives, such as those promoting the development, distribution, or access to audiovisual works.
- A cross-sectoral strand, including a Guarantee Facility and transnational policy cooperation.



1.18 Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme (AAL JP)



Total Budget : €700 million

Thematic Categories : Health, Information Technology

Beneficiaries : Private Sector, Academic institutions and research centres

Website : <http://www.aal-europe.eu/>

Description

AAL is a funding program that aims to create better quality of life for older people and to strengthen industrial opportunities in the field of healthy ageing technology and innovation. It funds projects that work towards creating market-ready products and services for older people. Each project consists of SMEs, research bodies and end-user organizations. AAL projects address a number of issues, including management of chronic conditions, social inclusion, and access to online services, mobility, management of daily activities, and support from informal careers. The specific aims of the AAL Programme are to:

- Foster the emergence of innovative ICT-based products, services and systems for ageing well at home, in the community, and at work.
- Create a critical mass of research, development and innovation at EU level in technologies and services for ageing well, including the establishment of a favourable environment for participation of SMEs.
- Help create the market conditions for the industrial exploitation of healthy ageing products by providing a European framework that supports the development of standardized solutions and facilitates their adaptation to local, regional and national levels to account for varying social preferences and regulatory requirements.



1.19 Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme 2014-2020



Total Budget: € 439 million

Thematic Categories: Civil Rights and Liberties

Beneficiaries: Public and private entities acting on behalf of those authorities (utilities, public transportation providers, social housing associations, energy service companies, etc), municipal, local and regional authorities, citizens

Website: https://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/programmes-2014-2020/rec/index_en.htm

Description

The Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme contributes to the further development of an area where equality and the rights of persons, as enshrined in the Treaty, the Charter and international human rights conventions, are promoted and protected. Its nine specific objectives are to:

- Promote non-discrimination
- Combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance
- Promote rights of persons with disabilities
- Promote equality between women and men and gender mainstreaming
- Prevent violence against children, young people, women and other groups at risk (Daphne)
- Promote the rights of the child
- Ensure the highest level of data protection
- Promote the rights deriving from Union citizenship
- Enforce consumer rights

Types of actions funded

- Training activities (staff exchanges, workshops, development of training modules)
- Mutual learning, cooperation activities, exchange of good practices, peer reviews, development of ICT tools
- Awareness-raising activities, dissemination, conferences
- Support for main actors (key European NGOs and networks, Member States' authorities implementing Union law)
- Analytical activities (studies, data collection, development of common methodologies, indicators, surveys, preparation of guides)



1.20 Justice Programme



Total Budget: € 378 million

Thematic Categories: Health

Beneficiaries: National, regional and local authorities, NGOs, foundations, universities, research centres

Website: https://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/programmes-2014-2020/justice/index_en.htm

Description

The Justice Programme aims at contributing to the further development of a European area of justice, funds projects relating to drugs, in particular on policy coordination, judicial cooperation on drug-related issues, and new psychoactive substances.

Objectives of the Programme

This programme shall contribute to the further development of a European area of justice based on mutual recognition and mutual trust. It promotes:

- judicial cooperation in civil matters, including civil and commercial matters, insolvencies, family matters and successions, etc.
- judicial cooperation in criminal matters
- judicial training, including language training on legal terminology, with a view to fostering a common legal and judicial culture
- effective access to justice in Europe, including rights of victims of crime and procedural rights in criminal proceedings
- initiatives in the field of drugs policy (judicial cooperation and crime prevention aspects)

Types of actions funded

- Training activities (staff exchanges, workshops, development of training modules,...)
- Mutual learning, cooperation activities, exchange of good practices, peer reviews, development of ICT tools...
- Awareness-raising activities, dissemination, conferences,...



- Support for main actors (key European NGOs and networks, Member States' authorities implementing Union law,...)
- Analytical activities (studies, data collection, development of common methodologies, indicators, surveys, preparation of guides...)

1.21 Europe for Citizens (EFC)



Total Budget: €187 million

Thematic Categories: European Identity

Beneficiaries: Public and private entities acting on behalf of those authorities (utilities, public transportation providers, social housing associations, energy service companies, etc), municipal, local and regional authorities, citizens

Website: https://ec.europa.eu/info/europe-citizens-efc_en

Description

Potential beneficiaries:

1. European remembrance- the EU as a peace project: The programme supports NGO/think tank/foundation, local and regional government initiatives which reflect on the causes of the totalitarian regimes that blighted Europe's modern history, look at its other defining moments and reference points, and consider different historical perspectives.
2. Democratic engagement & civic participation - getting citizens involved through the following actions:
 - a. Town twinning: Projects will bring together citizens from twinned towns to debate issues from the European political agenda, and develop opportunities for societal engagement and volunteering at EU level.
 - b. Networks of towns: Towns are encouraged to cooperate with one another on a long-term basis to share resources or interests, gain influence or face common challenges.
 - c. Civil society projects: These projects give citizens an opportunity to participate concretely in the EU policy-making process. They stimulate debates in order to propose practical solutions through cooperation at European level.



1.22 URBACT



Total Budget : €96,3 million

Thematic Categories : transnational exchanges, capacity-building, capitalisation & dissemination

Beneficiaries : Cities Networking

Website : <https://urbact.eu/>

Description

For about 15 years, the URBACT programme has been the European Territorial Cooperation programme aiming to foster sustainable integrated urban development in cities across Europe. It is an instrument of the Cohesion Policy, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the 28 Member States, Norway & Switzerland.

URBACT's mission is to enable cities to work together and develop integrated solutions to common urban challenges, by networking, learning from one another's experiences, drawing lessons and identifying good practices to improve urban policies.

Following the success of the URBACT I and II programmes, URBACT III (2014-2020) has been developed to continue to promote sustainable integrated urban development and contribute to the delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy.

The URBACT III programme is organised around four main objectives:

- **Capacity for Policy Delivery:** to improve the capacity of cities to manage sustainable urban policies and practices in an integrated and participative way.
- **Policy Design:** to improve the design of sustainable urban policies and practices in cities.
- **Policy Implementation:** to improve the implementation of integrated and sustainable urban strategies and actions in cities.
- **Building and Sharing Knowledge:** to ensure that practitioners and decision-makers at all levels have access to knowledge and share know-how on all aspects of sustainable urban development in order to improve urban development policies.



1.23 ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme



Total Budget : €48,6 million

Thematic Categories : Territorial Evidence, Transfer, Observation, Tools and Outreach, Technical Assistance (TA)

Beneficiaries : European policymakers, National policymakers and practitioners, Authorities implementing ESI Funding programme, Regional and local policymakers and practitioners

Website : <https://www.espon.eu/>

Description

The ESPON 2020 Programme aims at promoting and fostering a European territorial dimension in development and cooperation by providing evidence, knowledge transfer and policy learning to public authorities and other policy actors at all levels.

Mission

ESPON 2020 shall continue the consolidation of a European Territorial Observatory Network and grow the provision and policy use of pan-European, comparable, systematic and reliable territorial evidence.

Main objectives

The objective of the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme is to support the reinforcement of the effectiveness of EU Cohesion Policy and other sectoral policies and programmes under European Structural Investment (ESI) funds as well as national and regional territorial development policies, through the production, dissemination and promotion of territorial evidence covering the entire territory of the 28 EU Members States, as well as 4 Partner States of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

