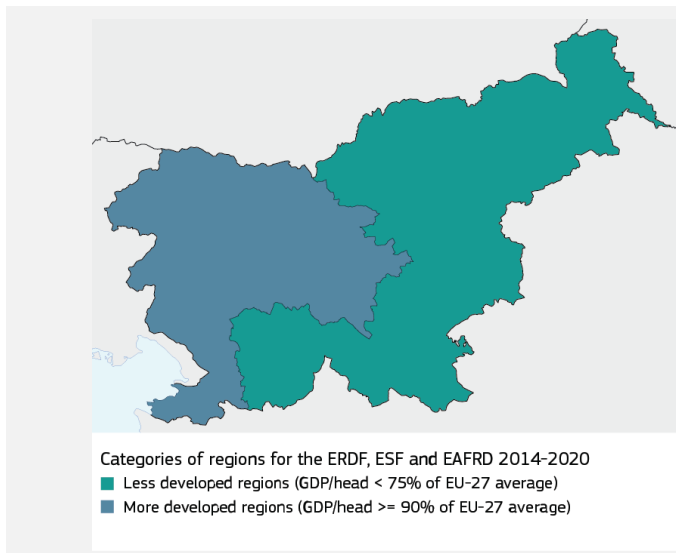


EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS¹



SLOVENIA

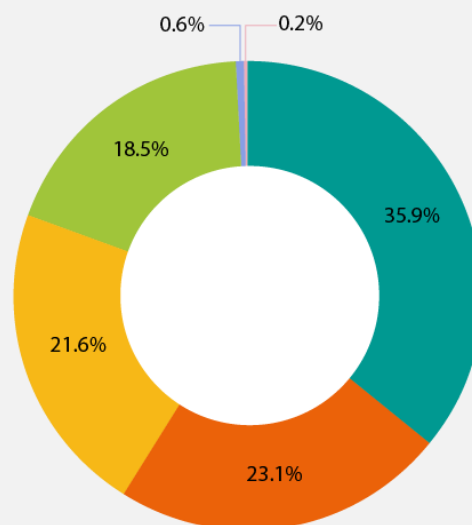
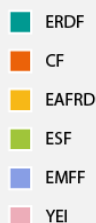
With a budget of **EUR 454 billion** for 2014-2020, the **European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds)** are the European Union's main investment policy tool. The ESI Funds combine five Funds: **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**; **European Social Fund (ESF)**; **Cohesion Fund (CF)**; **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)**; and the **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)**. Slovenia, together with 19 other Member States, will also benefit from the **Youth Employment Initiative (YEI)**.



Through its national operational programme, Slovenia has been allocated **EUR 3.87 billion** from ESI Funds over the period 2014-2020. With a national contribution of **EUR 1.02 billion**, Slovenia has a total budget of **EUR 4.9 billion** to be invested in various areas. These range from **innovation and competitiveness** of enterprises to support for **SMEs and agriculture and fishery holdings**, the **low-carbon economy**, **transport, environment, sustainable employment, social inclusion, education and public administration**.

ESI FUNDS BUDGET FOR SLOVENIA (2014-2020)

- **EUR 1.39 billion** through the **ERDF**
- **EUR 895 million** through the **CF**
- **EUR 838 million** through the **EAFRD**
- **EUR 717 million** through the **ESF**
- **EUR 25 million** through the **EMFF**
- **EUR 9 million** through the **YEI**



¹ Data included in this factsheet have been extracted from the ESIF Open Data platform which is accessible online at <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/>. Data on target achievements are based on officially agreed common indicators or, for the ESF, programme specific indicators (reference date for data: November 2015).

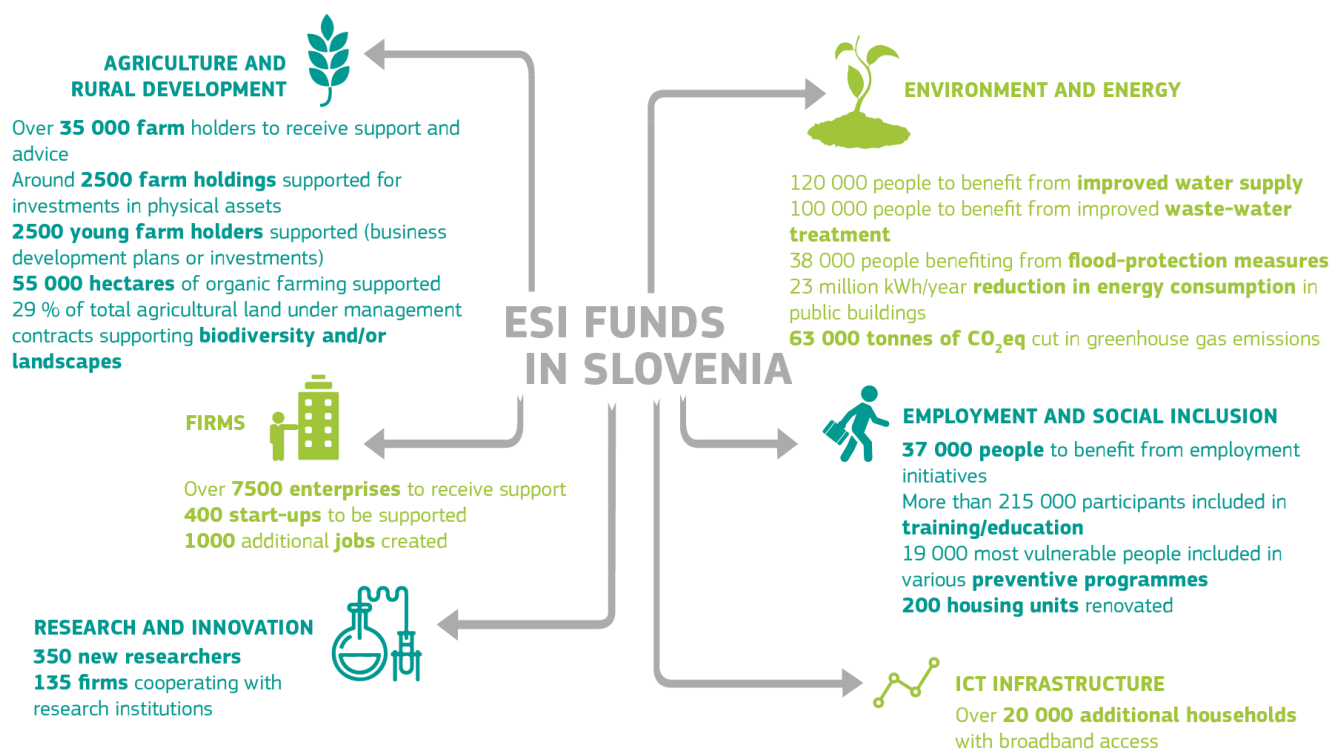
MAIN PRIORITIES

ESI FUNDS IN SLOVENIA WILL:

- Enhance **research and innovation** infrastructure and capacities in order to increase R&D expenditure in relation to GDP.
- Increase the number of households connected to broadband networks with speeds of at least 100 Mb/s.
- Support **SMEs** (including in **agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture**), helping to improve entrepreneurial activity, increase productivity and raise the added value of enterprises.
- Improve the **business environment** by strengthening services to enterprises and facilitating access to finance.
- Reduce **greenhouse gas emissions** and increase **energy efficiency** and the use of **renewable energy sources**.
- In view of the increasing number of natural disasters as a result of climate change, support **risk prevention and flood protection** measures.
- Invest in **environmental protection** and the efficient and **sustainable use of resources**, improve infrastructure in the water sector, make fisheries and aquaculture more sustainable, preserve biodiversity and marine ecosystems, and improve the urban environment.
- Enable more people to benefit from improved **water supply** and **better waste-water treatment**.
- Remove bottlenecks in the **TEN-T network** and increase the **sustainability and quality of transport infrastructure**.
- Support **sustainable and quality employment**, with initiatives designed to benefit the long-term unemployed, the low-skilled, older workers and young people.
- Invest in **education, training and vocational training** for skills and lifelong learning. The investments will further address skills mismatch and ensure renovation of vocational education and training systems.
- Tackle poverty and discrimination by promoting the **social inclusion of vulnerable people**.
- Invest in **institutional capacity-building** in the public sector and in the efficiency of public administration and public services at national, regional and local levels, with a view to implementing reforms, better regulations and good governance. This will include support for improving the efficiency and quality of the justice system.

TARGETS

All funds are designed to support Slovenia's **socio-economic development**. The expected results (**targets**) give an overall view of where Slovenia should be on key parameters by 2020.



HOW WILL SLOVENIA ACHIEVE THE EXPECTED RESULTS?

Slovenia will work towards the efficient spending of the EU funds, based on a multidimensional approach.

FULFILLING PRECONDITIONS FOR THE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT USE OF ESI FUNDS

To ensure that ESI Funds are used efficiently and focus on results, the Commission has set some preconditions when allocating ESI Funds to the Member States.

The main purpose of these conditions, also called '*ex-ante* conditionalities', is to help all Member States and their regions to tackle issues that past experience has shown to be particularly relevant to the efficient implementation of the Funds. These principles could be linked, for example, to the implementation of EU legislation, the financing of strategic EU projects, or administrative evaluation and institutional capacity.

These *ex-ante* conditionalities cover most investment areas: improvements to regional research and innovation (R&I) strategies as well as strategic plans linked to environment protection, energy resources, transport, labour market, social inclusion, health services, education and training, and public administration.

In Slovenia's case, strategic frameworks for certain areas of investment (e.g. environmental protection) have not been completed and need to be delivered in line with the agreed action plans. A mechanism to monitor the implementation of measures under the Small Business Act will help to underpin the promotion of entrepreneurship. Projects will be delivered more effectively on the basis of river basin management and regional transport master plans.

ENCOURAGING THE USE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND TERRITORIAL TOOLS

The plan is to significantly increase the use of financial instruments compared to the previous programming period. Most of the support will go to SMEs, energy efficiency and environmental and transport infrastructure. The scope should be explored for extending instruments to R&I and ICTs, including broadband infrastructure.

Specific programmes will ensure a genuine uptake of territorial instruments. Investments, mainly in improving access to efficient high-quality public services, urban development and safe and environmentally friendly regional transport, will be delivered via regional integrated territorial investments. Local partnerships will be enhanced by community-led local development.

SIMPLIFICATION FOR BENEFICIARIES

Slovenia has undertaken to simplify and harmonise the selection of operations, simplify reporting on project expenditure, ensure a single network of entities providing advisory and information services, and update information systems in line with e-cohesion principles so as to reduce the administrative burden on beneficiaries. The use of simplified cost options will further reduce the administrative burden and likelihood of error.

SUCCESS STORIES: EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS USING 2007-2013 ESI FUNDS

ENERGY EFFICIENT MAKE-OVER FOR BREŽICE GENERAL HOSPITAL

The general hospital in Brežice, a city in eastern Slovenia, is one of the oldest in the country, dating back to 1872. With 300 employees and more than 150 beds it provides a full range of medical services for a regional community of more than 70 000 people. Extensive energy-saving renovations have been made to the six main buildings in the hospital complex, thanks to investment from the EU's Cohesion Fund.

Total budget: EUR 2 041 223

EU budget contribution to the project from CF: EUR 1 183 348

More information: <http://europa.eu/!nJ69TH>

ENTREPRENEURS IN THE BUSINESS WORLD

In Slovenia, an entrepreneurship training scheme was established to help young people with post-secondary school qualifications or degrees to make the best use of their skills. The scheme was open to individuals registered as unemployed for five months. They were encouraged to present their business ideas individually or in groups. The goal was to come up with viable pathways to self-employment or for the development of start-ups. The budding entrepreneurs prepared their business plans while receiving mentoring from business people and experts.

Total budget: **EUR 3 888 354**

EU budget contribution to the project from the ESF: **EUR 3 305 101**

More information: <http://europa.eu/lpf37Xg>

SHORT SUPPLY CHAINS IN THE HEART OF SLOVENIA

Development of distribution systems for producers, combined with a direct 'fork-to-farm' approach, has improved the market access and local food awareness in Slovenia.

The priority is to promote and develop local self-sufficiency under the 'Heart of Slovenia' brand. This has increased the profile of local food producers and agricultural businesses, has connected with over 100 local food providers, and has established a network of suppliers and consumers.

More information: <http://www.razvoj.si/las/?lng=en&>

INNOVATIVE SEA BASS FARMING IN THE NORTHERN ADRIATIC SEA

Different projects support Fonda Sea Bass Farming in Portorož that uses innovative methods, with the fish being kept up to seven years instead of two, which gives the produce a high-end quality.

Mussel farming has been added underneath the net cages so as to absorb the waste nutrients of uneaten feed and fish droppings.

In addition, under the bandwidth of income opportunities were enlarged by boating and educating tourists around the fish farm.

Total budget: **EUR 1 896 600**

EU budget contribution from EFF: **EUR 949 000**

More information: www.fonda.si/en/fonda/the-fonda-fish-farm

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ESI FUNDS IN SLOVENIA

- ESI Funds: <http://ec.europa.eu/esif>
- ESI Funds Open Data Platform: <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/countries/SI>
- ERDF & CF: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/Slovenia
- ESF: <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=399&langId=en>
- YEI: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=13483&langId=en>
- EAFRD: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/index_en.htm
- EMFF: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/country-files/index_en.htm
- The EU Representation in Slovenia: http://ec.europa.eu/slovenia/index_sl.htm
- EU project examples: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/euprojects/search-projects/list_en
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