



European Commission

Summary of the Partnership Agreement for France 2014-2020

Overall information

The Partnership Agreement covers four funds: the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

Interventions have a particular focus on the following priorities:

- Boosting R&D knowledge transfer between academia and businesses, strengthening research and innovation systems in enterprises and developing an innovation-friendly business environment. In order to better target these investments each French region has elaborated a smart specialisation strategy;
- Improving entrepreneurship and business innovation – including developing the e-economy, and improving SME access to finance their investments and advanced business services;
- Increasing the economic competitiveness by enhancing the production of high value goods and services, developing and marketing innovative products and opening up new markets;
- Fostering the creation of new SMEs and sustaining the expansion and consolidation of existing SMEs, including advice and support for the hand-over of companies;
- Investment in broadband infrastructure with a view to improve the accessibility and use of high speed and ultra-high speed internet, notably in areas of economic interest (SMEs, research and educational institutions, hospitals) and in rural areas;
- Tackling unemployment, in particular youth unemployment through the Youth Employment Initiative, improving the quality of education and training and a better match with labour market demand, raising the qualifications and skills of the active labour force and preventing early school leaving;
- Poverty reduction through improved access to services and support to the social economy, including the integration of vulnerable minorities;
- Supporting the shift to a low carbon and resource-efficient economy, notably through investments in energy efficiency (industry, transport and buildings), development of renewable energies and the modal shift towards urban transport;

- Improve risk prevention and management; improve performance of Natura 2000 network, sustainable resource management and safeguard biodiversity;
- Improving the efficiency and life quality of urban and rural areas through the development of integrated plans and projects with the strong involvement of towns, cities and local development initiatives;
- Enhancing business innovation, competitiveness and human capital in fisheries, aquaculture and other maritime sectors;
- For outermost regions: develop endogenous potential and promote diversification, improve accessibility, protect the environment and in particular water resources, improve the inclusion of young people and vulnerable groups in the labour market, improve services to the population including social and educational services, maximise the potential of the maritime sectors and improve administrative capacity.

The programming principles of the Partnership Agreement are guided by the objectives and priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy and establish an economic, social, environmental and territorial policy that will stimulate growth and job creation in the upcoming years in France. The document defines the activities, the investments and the funding priorities which France requires in order to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and therefore, the achievement of the Europe 2020 targets.

The Partnership Agreement is developed around the challenge of restoring the competitiveness of the economy and increasing the number of high quality jobs, while at the same time ensuring environmental sustainability and aiming at the social and territorial inclusion. An important part of the analysis and strategy is thereby devoted to the diversity between the French territories, be it in the case of urban versus rural areas or between mainland France and the outermost regions.

The Partnership Agreement was subject to intensive and comprehensive consultation process carried out in the framework of a national campaign that gathered 350 organisms and institutions in outer and 70 entities in an inner circle. Across the country 17 major seminars were organised and also the wider public was consulted. The document was further subject to a thorough ex -ante evaluation, which allowed sharpening both the analysis and strategic proposals.

Implementation System

With the Partnership Agreement 2014-2020 a new governance model is introduced for the implementation of European Structural and Investment Funds in France as local authorities, notably the Regional Councils, will be in charge of the major part of programme implementation. As a consequence of this approach the choice has been made in favour of a high number of programmes (75 in total, including the four funds) with a mixture of state and regionalised focus.

The Partnership Agreement provides for the overall architecture of these programmes and particular attention has been paid to the definition of areas where synergy could be obtained and overlap avoided.

Selected expected results

Interventions will be aligned with Europe 2020 objectives and priorities and, as regards expected results, the following can be highlighted:

- R&D expenditure in % of GDP: 3% (2.25% in 2011);
- Increase of renewable energies' share in final consumption from 13.4% (2012) to 23%
- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from -4% (2010) to -14% versus 2005
- Early school leaving: 9.5% (11.62% in 2012);
- Tertiary or equivalent education completed by 30-34 years: 50% (44% in 2013);
- Employment rate for the population aged 20-64: 75% (69.4% in 2012).

Budget

For 2014-2020 the total cohesion policy funding to France (ERDF, ESF) amounts to EUR 15.9 billion (current prices), including a total of EUR 310 million for the Youth Employment Initiative. The special allocation to the outermost regions represents EUR 443.3 million.

The ESF share of the Structural Funds budget amounts to 41.7%. Approximately 31.7% of the ESF budget is allocated to social inclusion and combating poverty, i.e. above the 20% required minimum.

Allocation of EAFRD increased in France up to EUR 11.4 billion and will be mainly devoted to environmental, climatic and competitiveness related aspects of agricultural sector and rural areas development.

The allocation for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) amounts to around EUR 588 million. Details on the allocations by thematic objective are provided in the below table.

The thematic concentration on a limited number of priorities aimed at research and innovation, ICT, competitiveness of enterprises and innovation and low carbon economy exceed the minimum requires for the three categories of regions (convergence; transition; competitiveness).

Also the allocation for operations linked to climate change prevention and mitigation exceeds the target of 20% (about 37.1% in the case of France).

Integrated actions for sustainable urban development will be carried out through Integrated Territorial Investments or dedicated axes of the regionalised programmes and allocations will largely exceed the required minimum of a 5% ERDF share.

The minimum EAFRD share of 5% for Leader, devoted to bottom-up local development strategies in rural areas will be respected for each rural development programme.

Programme architecture

For the programming period 2014-20, EU funds will co-finance a total number of 75 programmes, distributed as follows:

- 1 national EAFRD framework
- 2 national programmes co-financed by EAFRD
- 27 rural development programmes co-financed by EAFRD
- 32 regionalised programmes co-financed by ERDF and ESF
- 2 regionalised programmes co-financed by ERDF
- 2 regionalised programmes co-financed by ESF
- 5 multiregional programmes co-financed by ERDF
- 1 national technical assistance programme co-financed by ERDF and ESF
- 1 national programme for Employment and Inclusion co-financed by the ESF
- 1 national European Youth Employment initiative programme co-finance by the ESF
- 1 national programme for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

The indicative allocation of support by the Union by thematic objective at national level for each of the ESI Funds, as well as the total indicative amount of support envisaged for climate change objectives

Thematic objective	ERDF	ESF	CF	EAFRD	EMFF	Total
01. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation	1 542 693 218,00	0,00	0,00	303 880 795,00	0,00	1 846 574 013,00
02. Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, information and communication technologies	1 032 434 162,00	0,00	0,00	78 783 910,00	0,00	1 111 218 072,00
03. Enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, the agricultural sector (for the EAFRD) and the fisheries and aquaculture sector (for the EMFF)	1 605 488 416,00	0,00	0,00	2 869 985 283,00	241 000 000,00	4 716 473 699,00
04. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors	1 711 112 185,00	0,00	0,00	348 900 172,00	17 000 000,00	2 077 012 357,00
05. Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management	331 965 843,00	0,00	0,00	3 151 356 390,00	0,00	3 483 322 233,00
06. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency	1 008 692 506,00	0,00	0,00	3 263 904 832,00	278 000 000,00	4 550 597 338,00
07. Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures	424 488 765,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	424 488 765,00
08. Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility	44 550 510,00	2 041 941 370,00	0,00	112 548 442,00	17 000 000,00	2 216 040 322,00

09. Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination	313 412 133,00	1 911 212 239,00	0,00	1 012 935 982,00	0,00	3 237 560 354,00
10. Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning	121 887 191,00	1 832 528 393,00	0,00	112 548 442,00	0,00	2 066 964 026,00
11. Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and an efficient public administration		15 710 560,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	15 710 560,00
Technical assistance	289 382 847,00	225 514 716,00	0,00	130 000 000,00	35 000 000,00	679 897 563,00
Total	8 426 107 776,00	6 026 907 278,00	0,00	11 384 844 248,00	588 000 000,00	26 425 859 302,00